



CITY OF HALIFAX

CITY CLERK

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

ROLL 1001-84-0000

BATCH 306

**PUBLIC**

**MEETING**

**DATE;**

*FEBRUARY 29, 1984*

PUBLIC MEETING  
UNITED MEMORIAL BELLS  
M I N U T E S

Council Chamber  
City Hall  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
February 29, 1984  
7:30 p.m.

A Public Meeting, the purpose of which was to discuss the erection of a memorial to the Halifax Explosion victims including the United Memorial Bells, was held at this time.

Present: His Worship Mayor Ron Wallace, Chairman; Deputy Mayor Ron Cromwell, and Aldermen Doehler, Downey, O'Malley, Dewell, Grant, Nolan, LeBlanc, Flynn and Hamshaw.

His Worship called the meeting to order and introduced the members of the Halifax Memorial Explosion Bells Committee present at the meeting with special note of Mr. Reg Prest, Chairman of the Committee.

His Worship then indicated that the format of the meeting was similar to a public hearing but much less formal. He indicated that firstly Council would hear a presentation from the Halifax Memorial Explosion Bells Committee after which there would be a short recess to allow Council and those in the gallery an opportunity to view the model of the proposed memorial and question the Committee with regard to the memorial and concerns they might have. He further advised that after this short recess members of the public in the gallery would be invited to address Council regarding the matter

Mr. Reg Prest, Chairman, Halifax Memorial Explosion Bells Committee, addressed Council outlining his involvement in the Committee indicating that he had been requested to attend a meeting with the past members of the United Memorial Bells Committee to discuss the erection of a memorial to the Explosion victims in which the bells would be included. Mr. Prest indicated that he had been advised at that meeting that the Provincial government was willing to grant \$100,000 for such a purpose and was requested to act as Chairman of such a Committee, to which he agreed.

At this time Mr. Prest requested that Mrs. Janet Kitz, historian for the Committee briefly outline the history of the bells

Mrs. Kitz, addressed Council indicating that most people were probably aware of the history of the bells. She briefly outlined the history of the bells noting that at the time of the Explosion the Orr family lived on Kenny Street. Mrs. Kitz noted that all except one of the Orr family lost their lives in the Explosion. Sandra Orr the surviving member of the family donated the bells to the United Memorial Church in memory of her family and all those people who lost their lives in the explosion.

Mr. Roy Russell, a member of the Committee, addressed Council noting that he had joined the United Memorial Church in 1946 and since that time the maintenance of the bell tower was an ongoing problem. He advised that in the early 60's the City of Halifax approached the Church advising that the bells would have to be removed from the tower and a proper structure erected. Mr. Russell noted that this opinion was verified by professional engineers within the City. Mr. Russell noted that the Church was not in a position to finance the erection of a proper and safe tower at that time much as it is not today. Mr. Russell noted that the City was in no better position with regard to the financing of such an endeavor

Mr. Frank Harrington, a member of the Committee addressed Council outlining briefly the process taken in reaching the proposed design of the memorial noting that a competition had been carried out with the Core Design Group winning the competition and Mr. Keith Graham being the primary designer of the memorial

His Worship at this time conveyed the regrets of Alderman Meagher indicating that he was unable to attend the meeting this evening. He further noted that former Mayor Kitz was present at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Keith Graham, Core Design Group, addressed Council naming the other members of the group having worked on the proposed design of the memorial. He went on to note that his group had been involved in some of the important buildings within the City and when approached regarding this particular proposal had seen it as an opportunity to design a memorial which truly reflected the rich heritage of the City. He further noted that it was also an opportunity to work for the people of the City. He noted that the group was truly grateful for this opportunity and hoped to see this project carried through with the utmost of speed.

Mr. Graham went on to indicate that he felt this memorial was long over due and that this particular piece of Halogonian history was international in nature as this explosion was the largest manmade explosion outside of Hiroshima. Mr. Graham went on to describe the design of the memorial indicating that it was simple in form almost of a pristine nature and reflecting the devastation of the explosion as well as the rebuilding of the City in its aftermath.

Mr. Graham went on to describe the site and indicated that he felt this was the most appropriate site for the memorial as it looked out over most of the northend of Halifax and the exact location of the collision of the Imo and the Mont Blanc.

Dr. MacGregor then addressed Council indicating his full support of the project noting the beauty of the proposed memorial and the appropriateness of the site. He further went on to advise that unsolicited funds from members of the families lost in the explosion have already been received and it was anticipated that much more would be received. He indicated that he felt it was time that the bells had a prominent and permanent home and voiced the opinion that such a memorial on such a site would be the most appropriate location.

His Worship recognized Mr. T. Sullivan, a former Alderman and Deputy Mayor of the City.

8:05 p.m. The meeting recessed for a short break.

8:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened and His Worship invited those in the gallery to address Council.

Mr. Alex McCleve, a resident of Union Street, addressed Council giving a brief background to his involvement in this matter noting that he had attended a public meeting at United Memorial Church on January 20, 1984 at which time he had agreed to be part of a Committee to ascertain the feeling of the community with regard to the erection of the proposed memorial on Fort Needham. Mr. McCleve went on to describe the development of a questionnaire which was circulated to the community and then proceeded to outline the results of the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire and the report of the citizen committee with regard to the questionnaire were submitted to members of Council and is on file as public record.

Mr. McCleve indicated that he was not opposed to the erection of the memorial but felt that the concerns as indicated by the results of the questionnaire should be dealt with by Council.

Mr. Terry Sullivan, 3130 Union Street, addressed Council indicating that he was a member of the Halifax Memorial Explosion Bells Committee. Mr. Sullivan indicated that he along with many other citizens of the north end of Halifax remembered the bells playing from the United Memorial Church as a child. Mr. Sullivan indicated that he would be addressing the following matters this evening. 1. Site 2. Vandalism 3. Drainage 4. Noise 5. Traffic.

Mr. Sullivan indicated that this was not a new site as this had been suggested by city staff some years ago. Mr. Sullivan indicated that staff had suggested this site on the basis that it did not interfere with any existing or proposed recreation area, it was removed from and above the surrounding homes and there was a clear view of the surrounding area.

Mr. Sullivan went on to indicate that vandalism was not a new problem with Fort Needham and lighting was to be installed to curb vandalism. He noted that should the lighting seem to attract vandalism the lights would be turned off. He further noted that the construction and material of the memorial was such that little damage could occur to the structure.

Mr. Sullivan indicated that the west side of Union Street had been experiencing difficulties with drainage for some time and investigation had been done by the City. He noted however the solutions to the problems were costly and therefore action had not be taken by many residents. He noted that research seemed to indicate that there would be no further problems caused by the erection of this memorial and further advised that a report would be circulated by the Halifax Memorial Explosion Committee regarding the work carried out with regard to drainage for the Committee.

Mr. Sullivan then addressed the matter of noise indicating that he found this a difficult subject to discuss as he could not see how the beautiful sounds produced by the bells could be classified as noise. He noted that the bells would only be used on Sundays, Holy Days and hopefully on December 6 of each year.

Mr. Sullivan then addressed the concern of residents regarding traffic. He noted that traffic had been a problem in the area, however, he indicated that he had not found parking to be that great of a problem. He suggested that the work carried out by the Committee indicated that the matter was being addressed and would continue to be addressed as the project proceeded.

Mr. Sullivan in his closing remarks noted that it was now a decision of Council as to whether or not the project and site would be approved, noting that he hoped Council would approved the proposal. He further noted that the refusal of this proposal might lead to further delays and ultimately the loss of opportunity to have a memorial to the explosion victims. He suggested that all the problems cited could be solved and that the memorial was long overdue.

Mr. Graham Hicks, a resident of Young Street, addressed Council indicating his approval of the proposal and noting that during his younger years he had lived near the bells and had never found them to be disturbing and suggested that those persons living near the new site of the bells would not find them disturbing either. He noted he hoped Council voted in favor of this proposal.

Mr. Tom Cater, a resident of Union Street addressed Council indicating that he was in favor of the proposal noting that he had been a member of the citizens Committee formed to ascertain the feeling of the Community with regard to this matter. He noted that the general concensus was for approval of the proposal. However, Mr. Cater, noted that some residents had concerns with regard to certain matters and in particular traffic.

Mr. Cater noted that the nation and international importance of the memorial would certainly increase its importance as a major tourist attraction and thereby traffic in the area. He noted that Union Street presently experienced problems with traffic and the location of the memorial on Fort Needham without some remedial action would certainly aggravate the situation. He further noted that the problems of drainage, vandalism and noise seem to have been addressed and resolved.

Mr. Cater went on to note that the most favorable solution to the concern of increased traffic seemed to be a seasonable blockage of Union Street, but he personally felt that speed bumps would be sufficient. Mr. Cater in his closing remarks indicated that his main concern was to be assured that the possible traffic problems which could occur be addressed at this point in time rather than after the fact.

Mr. Cater then responded to questions from members of Council.

Mr. Pat Kerren, a resident of Union Street, addressed Council indicating that he was in favor of the proposal but had some concerns. He noted that he felt there was no more appropriate memorial or site than the proposal before Council and further expressed concern over the controversy having arisen from this matter. Mr. Kerren indicated that it was his opinion that the problems with regard to traffic and parking should be addressed at this stage rather than at some later date when an unfortunate accident has pushed the issue to the foreground. He further noted that it was often the case that problems such as these were harder to solve than at the outset of such an endeavour. Mr. Kerren expressed concern regarding the possibility of bus tours in the area referring to a letter dated February 24, 1984 received by members of Council from Mr. George C. Thompson, President, Acadian Lines.

Mr. Kerren indicated that he felt it was the responsibility of Council to deal with the matter of traffic and ensure that there was ample parking for visitors to the memorial at the north end of Union Street. In closing Mr. Kerren noted that a closure of Union Street either permanently or seasonally appeared to be the most favored solution.

Mr. Kerren responded to questions from members of Council.

Mr. Bob Crowell, a resident of the area, addressed Council noting that the overall impression given at this evening was in favor of the proposal. Mr. Crowell noted that he was of the opinion that the matter of traffic and parking was being addressed and that the area residents should rely on Council to ensure that all possible safeguards are taken to ensure that traffic does not become uncontrollable in the area.

Mr. Crowell indicated that he felt the bells would be an asset to the neighbourhood but voiced concern over the possibility of buses on Union Street. He noted that the beautiful sounds of the bells would not be enhanced by the drone of buses. He further suggested that some restriction as to size of buses might be considered.

Mrs. Mary A. Murphy, 5275 Russell Street, a survivor of the explosion, addressed Council reading from her letter dated February 29, 1984 and submitted to Council this evening.

His Worship leaves the meeting and Deputy Mayor Cromwell takes the Chair.

Mr. Norville Collins, 3247 Union Street, addressed Council indicating that he was in favor of the proposal and noting that he understood the concerns voiced with regard to traffic. He noted that it was his opinion that Gottingen Street was the most logical place for tour buses to view the memorial as it would serve no purpose to walk to the top of Fort Needham to see the memorial as you could not enter the memorial. He noted that drainage in the area was a problem and suggested that this memorial might result in a bettering of conditions in this area. He went on to congratulate the members of the Halifax Memorial Explosion Bells Committee for their fine work and urged Council to approve this proposal.

Mr. Gary Gordon, Columbus Place, addressed Council indicating his support of this proposal and noting that the use of a barricade and installation of parking area might serve only to aggravate the present traffic problems. He went on to note that the information given to Council was the basis of their decision and the area residents had to rely on Council to do what is best for the area. He further noted that in his own personal experience vandalism was reduced by lighting and lighting was to be provided. He noted that drainage was a long standing problem of the area and this proposal should not be used as a scapegoat to resolve this problem. He urged Council to approve the proposal with all speed.

His Worship returns to the meeting and Alderman Cromwell takes his seat in Council.

His Worship invited Mr. Prest, Chairman, Halifax Memorial Explosion Bells Committee to make some closing remarks.

Mr. Prest addressed Council noting that many of the concerns voiced this evening were matters over which the Committee had no control. He noted however that should this matter be considered favorably by Council that his Committee would be more than willingly to have Mr. Graham design a gate or similar structure to be used at the discretion of the community at large. Mr. Prest thanked Council for their consideration of the Committee's views.

The following correspondence has been received with regard to this matter:

1. Letter from Mr. Walter T. Murphy, 5382 Russell Street, dated February 10, 1984 to The Editor, The Mail-Star, in favor of the proposal.
2. Letter from Mr. D.H. Waller, Director, Centre for Water Resources dated February 13, 1984 to Mr. M.H. Harrington re runoff effects of the proposed structure.
3. Letter from Albert E. Lawrence, 3154 Albert Street, received February 27, 1984 in favor of the proposal.
4. Letter from M.L. McKenna, 5380 Young Street, dated February 27, 1984, in favor of the proposal.
5. Letter from Florence C. Tingley, 3227 Union Street, dated February 27, 1984, re closure of Union Street.
6. Letter from Keith L. Graham, President, Core Design Group, dated February 27, 1984, in favor of the proposal.
7. Letter from Blair S. Beed, 6306 Cork Street, dated February 29, 1984, in favor of the proposal.

His Worship thanked the Halifax Memorial Explosion Bells Committee and the public for their attendance and participation in this evening's meeting.

9:20 p.m. The meeting adjourned.

HEADLINES

Public Meeting - United Memorial Bells..... 1-7

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR RON WALLACE  
CHAIRMAN

/sg

City of Halifax

February 22, 1984

*M/S  
2/21/84*

**PUBLIC MEETING  
FORT NEEDHAM MEMORIAL**

Halifax City Council will hold a Public Meeting on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1984 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from the Public about the proposed construction of an Explosion Memorial with the United Memorial Church Bells. The location of the proposed memorial is on the northeast corner of the Needham Park.

Opinions from interested persons or groups with regard to this proposal may be presented orally at the February 29, 1984 meeting. Written submissions may be forwarded to the City Clerk, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3A5.

G. I. BLENNERHASSETT,  
CITY CLERK

122201-A0300

722562

(CITY CREST)

February 22, 1984

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G. I. BLENNERHASSETT,  
CITY CLERK

2 columns x ? inches  
Chronicle Herald & Mail Star  
1 INSERTION ONLY: February 22, 1984

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 122201-A0300

*Hand delivered to Purchasing  
10:30 AM Feb 20/84  
Peter will have HRDA  
delivered notice on  
Wed Feb 22/84  
app 300 notices*

PUBLIC MEETING  
FORT NEEDHAM MEMORIAL

HALIFAX CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING ON  
FEBRUARY 29, 1984 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.  
THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC  
ABOUT THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN EXPLOSION MEMORIAL  
WITH THE UNITED MEMORIAL CHURCH BELLS.

THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL IS ON THE NORTHEAST  
CORNER OF THE NEEDHAM PARK.

*from F. Galda  
8/1/80*

PAUL - DRAFT FROM GIB, TO APPEAR NEXT WEDNESDAY, COPIES TO BE  
PRINTED UP, AND PFM TO ARRANGE WITH AFTER SCHOOL PROJECTS  
TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

PUBLIC MEETING  
FORT NEEDHAM MEMORIAL

"HALIFAX CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 29, 1984  
AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS  
~~IS TO ALLOW CITY COUNCIL TO RECEIVE~~ <sup>HEAR FROM THE</sup> PUBLIC INPUT <sup>ABOUT</sup> RESPECTING THE <sup>PROPOSE</sup>  
CONSTRUCTION OF A ~~HALIFAX EXPLOSION~~ <sup>WITH</sup> MEMORIAL ~~TO INCLUDE~~ THE  
UNITED MEMORIAL CHURCH BELLS.

THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED MEMORIAL IS

*on the ~~west~~ <sup>north east</sup>*  
*of the northern slope of Fort Needham,*  
*corner ~~off~~ of the Needham Park.*

( CITY CREST )

February 22, 1984

PUBLIC MEETING

TAKE NOTICE that Halifax City Council will hold a Public Meeting on FEBRUARY 29, 1984 AT 7:30 P.M. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Halifax, Nova Scotia. The purpose of this meeting is to allow City Council to receive public input respecting the construction of a Halifax Explosion Memorial to include the United Memorial Church Bells. The location of the proposed memorial is on the crest of the northern slope of Fort Needham.

Opinions from interested persons or groups with regard to this proposal may be presented orally at the February 29, 1984 meeting. Written submissions may be forwarded to the City Clerk, P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3A5.

G.I. BLENNERHASSETT  
CITY CLERK

2 columns x ? inches  
Chronicle Herald & Mail Star  
1 INSERTION ONLY: February 22, 1984  
ACCOUNT NBR: 122201-A0300

*Sherrill's ad revised  
see Paul's notes*

SEND TO *Pam Newton*  
*Clk's Office*



**CITY OF HALIFAX**

P.O. BOX 1749  
HALIFAX NS B3J 3A5

FROM *Mike Woods* DEPT *R/E* DATE *Feb 24/84*  
SUBJECT *Bells - Gait Redden*

*I refer to the Public meeting on Feb 29/84, I was wondering if anyone from the Memorial Bells Committee has been contacted? as this has been their project, someone should be present to speak at the public meeting.*

*I would suggest Mr. Reginald Puro or Mrs. Janet Kitz if they haven't already been contacted. I believe they were in attendance at the initial presentation given to Council.*

REPLY  
*Mrs B: what do you think*  
*S.S.*

*I think ad + distribution should be sufficient*  
*S.S.*

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 27 1984  
CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

*423-4284 - Mrs Kitz, I called her, but she was aware. J*

REPLY FROM

REPLY DATE

AVOID VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS

USE A **← SPEEDIMEMO →**

TO WRITE: HANDWRITE OR TYPE. REMOVE AND RETAIN YELLOW COPY. FORWARD BALANCE OF SET. FOLD AT MARKS FOR USE IN #9 OR #10 WINDOW ENVELOPE

TO REPLY: WRITE REPLY IN BOTTOM AREA. SNAP SET APART. RETAIN ORIGINAL AND RETURN PINK COPY.

Just at Public Meeting  
Feb. 29/89 S.S.

# HALIFAX WRECKED

## More Than One Thousand Killed In This City, Many Thousands Are Injured And Homeless.

**M**ORE than one thousand dead and probably five thousand injured, many of them fatally, is the result of the explosion yesterday on French steamship Mont Blanc, loaded with nitroglycerine and trinitrotuol. All of Halifax north and west of the depot is a mass of ruins and many thousands of people are homeless. The Belgian Relief steamer Imo, coming down from Bedford Basin, collided with the Mont Blanc, which immediately took fire and was headed in for Pier No. 8 and exploded. Buildings over a great area collapsed, burying men, women and children. Tug boats and smaller vessels were engulfed and then a great wave washed up over Campbell Road. Fires broke out and became uncontrollable, stopping the work of rescue. Not a house in Halifax escaped some damage, and the region bounded on the east by the harbor, south by North street and west by Windsor street, is absolutely devastated.

**T**HE wounded and homeless are in different institutions and homes over the city. The Halifax Herald is collecting information regarding the missing, and citizens who have victims of the disaster at their homes are requested to telephone to The Herald office. Hundreds of the bodies which were taken from the ruins are unrecognizable and morgues have been opened in different parts of the city. Citizens' committees are being formed for rescue work. Bulletins will be issued thruout the day giving information for the assistance of those who have lost relatives and friends. While practically every home in the city is damaged, those who are able to give any temporary accommodation are asked to notify some of the committees.

Military and naval patrols are keeping order and superintending the rescue work.

### THE AWFUL STORY OF DISASTER

**A**T 9.05 o'clock yesterday morning a terrific explosion wrecked Halifax killing over a thousand, wounding at least five thousand, and laying in ruins at least one-fifth of the city.

The Belgian Relief steamer Imo coming down out of the Basin in charge of Pilot William Hayes collided with the French steamship Mont Blanc in charge of Pilot Frank MacKay. The French steamer was loaded with nitro glycerine and trinitrotuol. Fire broke out on the Mont Blanc and she was headed in for Pier 8. It was eighteen minutes after the collision when the explosion occurred. The old sugar refinery, and all the

buildings for a great distance collapsed. Tug boats and steamers were engulfed and then a great wave rushed over Campbell road carrying up debris and the corpses of hundreds of men who were at work on the piers and steamers.

Without the loss of a moment hundreds of survivors rushed to the rescue of those buried in the ruins. Fire broke out in scores of places and soon the great mass of wreckage was in the grip of an uncontrollable fire checking the work of rescue.

The military and naval authorities almost immediately took charge of the situation. Fearing that the fire would reach local magazines of explosives military messengers were sent over the city warning the people

out of the buildings and advising them to take to the citiadel and open spaces. This was not by authority.

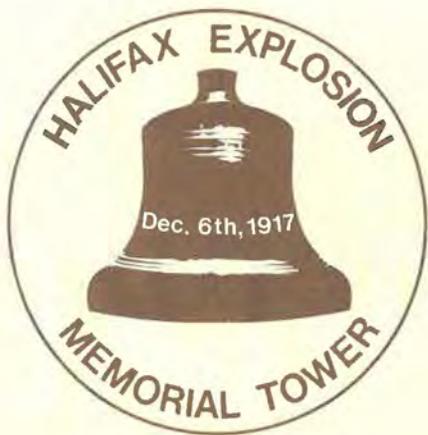
Practically every house in the city was damaged. The entire business district was windowless and to prevent pillaging patrols from warships in port were paraded thru the streets.

All along Gottingen street and throughout the northwest part of the city there was a pitiful scene as women and children lacerated with flying fragments of glass rushed from their homes. Truckmen, hackmen, and taxi-cab drivers rushed victims to the hospitals for dressing. At the Naval hospital many of the sick sailors were badly cut and, fearing an explosion from the magazine at the Wellington barracks, they were taken away.

**T**HE home of The Halifax Herald and The Evening Mail is badly wrecked. Every pane of glass and window in the building is smashed. Partitions have been blown down. Our press is filled with glass. Some employees have lost their homes and families. Our power service is cut off.

We are sending out a copy of this hand printed bulletin to every town in order that as many of our readers as possible may know at least some of the details of the disaster. We hope to be in a position to publish tomorrow. In the meantime we ask for patience.

A public meeting is called for city hall at 11.



## PRESS RELEASE

### Monument Design Unveiled

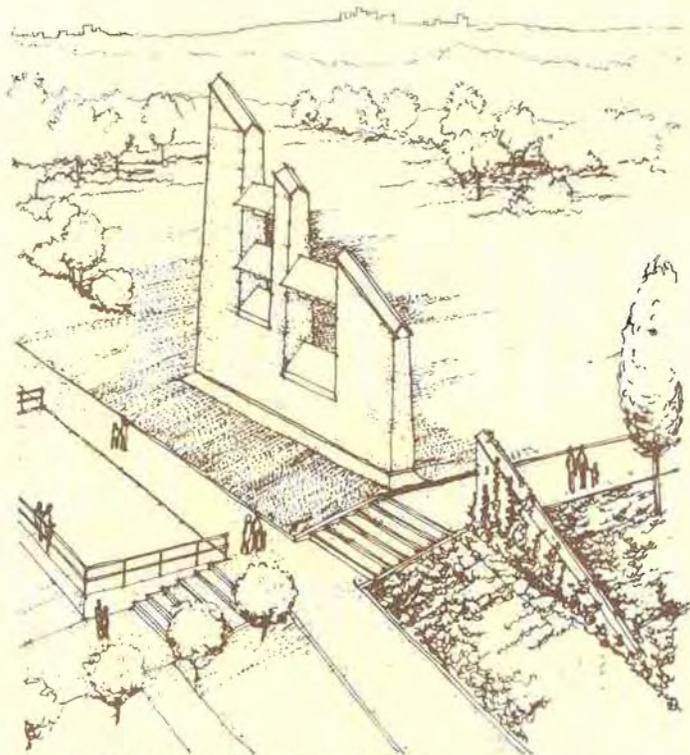
HALIFAX, N.S. — The design of a bell tower to commemorate the 1917 Halifax Explosion was announced last evening at a public meeting in United Memorial Church.

Reginald A. Prest, Chairman of the Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee said the design was selected because it makes a dramatic statement suggesting an image of destruction while simultaneously evoking the energetic civic renewal that followed the devastation.

Placed on a granite platform, the \$200,000 structure is proposed for the north-east corner of Needham Park. The site, donated to the city years ago by the Halifax Relief Commission, overlooks the Narrows where the collision of the Imo and Mont Blanc took place. The monument will be clearly visible from both the surrounding area and the Harbour shores.

The narrow, angular construction will be 60' at the highest point, sloping 150° to disappear into the side of the hill. Several rectangular openings will house bells of the carillon donated in 1921 to United Memorial Church in memory of the Samuel Orr family. Placed perpendicular to the harbour, the form will direct viewer attention to the explosion site.

Monolithic hydrostone will be the principal building material, with copper sheathing for the inclined surfaced and to protect the bell enclosures. "Traditional materials will reflect the history and character of the adjacent neighbourhood and project a



view from union st. entrance

## HALIFAX EXPLOSION MEMORIAL BELLS

by core design group,  
keith l. graham with  
n. fowler, j. rowe, j. thomson

feeling of stability and permanance," Prest noted.

Ornamental plantings will compliment the structural form. There will be opportunities for commemorative tree installations around the base. Walkways and paths will be upgraded minimally in the immediate area and strong lighting installed to highlight the monument.

It will be possible to play the carillon from both United Memorial Church and the monument platform.

Prest stated, "We feel that the structure, with its simplicity, boldness of form and sympathetic setting will become an important addition to Needham Park and its vicinity, as well as a significant feature of the Halifax-Dartmouth area."

The project dedication date is December 6th, 1984, the 67th anniversary of the Explosion.

**Support the Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Fund**



**HALIFAX EXPLOSION  
MEMORIAL BELLS COMMITTEE**  
P.O. Box 1267 Halifax  
North Postal Stn. B3K 5H4

17.5



# ACADIAN LINES LIMITED

6040 Almon Street  
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia  
B3K 5M1

GEORGE C. THOMPSON  
PRESIDENT



February 24th, 1984

Mayor Ron Wallace  
City Hall  
1841 Argyle Street  
HALIFAX, N.S. B3J 3A5

Re: Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee



Dear Mayor Wallace:

Recently, Mr. R. A. Prest, Chairman of the Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee, discussed with me the activities of the Committee of which he is the Chairman and in particular what possible traffic there might be on the part of tour bus companies on local streets such as Needham or Union, following the completion of the erection of the Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells. I informed him that ACADIAN LINES controls, under the Motor Carrier Act, the operation of Gray Line of Halifax Sight-Seeing Tours. I also informed him that ACADIAN LINES has no control over the movement of visiting tour buses, although we do service such buses at our Garage.

I expressed to Mr. Prest that I believed it was very unlikely that ACADIAN LINES' Gray Line of Halifax Tour Buses would proceed at any time in the immediate area of Fort Needham where the Memorial is to be placed. I showed Mr. Prest the map set up on the Gray Line of Halifax 1983 Season Folder, which indicates that the Buses travel north on Barrington Street, all the way to Kempt Road and are at least three or four blocks away from Fort Needham. I also informed him that it was most likely that such routes would continue for some time.

Following Mr. Prest's visit, I with three of my associated management people, visited the Fort Needham area, travelling on Needham Street (dead end), all the way along Union Street, and including walking to the top and beyond Fort Needham itself.

Enclosed you will please find a copy of our Gray Line of Halifax 1983 Folder, referred to above, showing the complete route outlined in dark blue lines.

For what it's worth, in my view, there is little likelihood of any sight-seeing or tour buses proceeding to Fort Needham, other than a temporary pause on the north part of Union Street to permit tourists to proceed to the top of the hill, which I understand, would permit such persons to see the Memorial when it is in place.

*Dnt'd Mayor's Office - Ald, c/m c/o  
Feb 28/84  
Anna, Mr Churchill, P.I.O., SB*

In passing, also after my conversation with Mr. Prest, I checked our Gray Line Folders and found that we discontinued proceeding in a southerly direction on Union Street in 1972 to date.

In my view, when the Memorial has been erected, it will be quite convenient for tour buses to observe same from a number of locations on nearby more important traffic streets such as Barrington, Gottingen and Devonshire Avenue.

Please note below a copy of this letter is being sent to Mr. R. A. Prest.

Assuring you and the City of Halifax of our continued cooperation,

Yours very truly,



GCT:im

CC: R. A. Prest, Esq.  
Halifax, N.S.

Distributed at Public Meeting  
Feb 29/84 A Gauthier

Dist March 1/84

C/M  
L/S

M. Woods, Real Estate

Our Committee's terms of reference were to solicit the opinions and concerns from our neighbours whose homes and residences border Fort Needham. This Committee drew up an informal survey to aid in carrying out their mandate.

Since not one of us is a trained statistician, we don't pretend that our survey rivals the Lou Harris or Gallop Polls for scientific accuracy. Nevertheless, we share some pride that the results of our efforts reflect a neighbourhood view on the installation of the Memorial Bells. One thing more! A scientific social survey is often cold and heartless, like a national census, prodding and prying out information without even a shadow of human compassion. Each one of us would like to think we conducted our survey otherwise. Unlike a statistician, we actually listened to what was said. We responded to it and urged further suggestions. Because we listened, the sharp words of protest and the endearing phrases of support are genuinely reflected in our conclusions.

#### On to the STATS!

54 of a possible 73 homes were visited--74%

To question #1---51 answered yes (94.9%) 3 said No (5.5%)

To question #2---43 answered yes (79.6%) 6 said No (11.1%) and 5 were undecided (9.2%)

To question #3---31 said Yes (57%) 17 said NO (31%) and 6 were undecided (11%)

Of those who anticipated an increase in traffic, the most favoured solution, was a barricade either seasonal or permanent at the North end of Union Street. Needham Street residents, on the whole, requested that a well-marked entrance and parking facility be erected at the North End of Fort Needham.

Additional comments showed citizen concern about Vandalism on the Bells and on Fort Needham, Nighttime lights attracting crowds, and not least of all a Sunday sleeper's dread of rudely awakening to the early morning "tintinnabulation...of the ringing and the jingling of the Bells".

x c Traffic Authority  
Mar 16

BREAK DOWN TO RESPONSE  
TO QUESTION NUMBER FOUR

RANGE OF RESPONSES

	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
SOLUTION A (Permanent Barricade)	8	4	3	9
SOLUTION B (Seasonal Barricade)	5	12	5	7
SOLUTION C (Seasonal Barricade after 25% increase)	9	6	3	5
SOLUTION D (Traffic Bumps)	6	2	3	13

It should be noted that of the 31 respondents who answered Yes to question #3 only 25 responded to the range of solutions provided. It should be further noted that the discrepancies in the number of responses for solution A to D was because some of the people questioned only responded to a partial range of solutions.

*Distributed at Public Meeting  
Jan 29/84 S. Bantier*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This questionnaire was designed by a committee organized during a Public Information Meeting held at United Memorial Church on February 1, 1984 and is concerned with the Memorial Tower proposed for Needham Park.

Would you please take a few minutes to answer these questions: All answers are considered confidential.

1. Are you aware of the plans for the construction of the Memorial Tower in Needham Park? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you in favour of the construction of the Memorial Tower in Needham Park? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. With the construction of the Memorial Tower, do you think there will be an increase in traffic on Union St.?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. If yes to #3, the following suggestions are provided to solve the anticipated traffic problem. Please rate these solutions from one (best solution) to four (worse solution).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Install Permanent barrack. North End Union St.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install seasonal barrack. North End Union St. June 1, to Labour Day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install seasonal barrack. North End Union St. after Tower has been built and an increase of 25% has been noted in traffic.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Install traffic bumps on Union St.

5. Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you



17.5

TO: P. Calda, P. Eng., City Manager  
FROM: G.I. Blennerhassett, City Clerk  
DATE: March 8, 1984  
SUBJECT: Memorial Bells Committee Report

1. FOLLOW UP
2. FOLLOW UP
3. FOLLOW UP
4. COMPLETION DATE

---

I call your attention to Item 3 of the attached resolution approved by Council on March 1st.

Council is making a commitment to the residents with respect to lifestyle changes "because of increased traffic, parking, water course change or vandalism" and while it may be understood these potential problems are as a result of the erection of the monument the resolution does not say that. Is there a possibility the residents can hang us on some issue in the future?

  
G.I. BLENNERHASSETT  
CITY CLERK

/pn



CITY COUNCIL

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

TO: City Solicitor  
Traffic Authority  
Director of Finance

Halifax, N. S., March 6 19 84

Extracts from Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Halifax

held on the 1st day of March 19 84

Memorial Bell Committee Report - Alderman O'Malley

The matter of the Memorial Bells construction as a memorial to the victims of the Halifax Explosion was discussed previously. A public meeting into this proposal was held on February 29, 1984.

Alderman O'Malley addressed members of Council and advised he wished to present Council's Committee of the Memorial Bells' report at this time.

MOVED by Alderman O'Malley, seconded by Alderman Grant

that:

1. Council instruct the Legal Department to prepare the necessary documentation for Council's approval to have the requested site on Fort Needham licensed to the Memorial Bells Committee, their heirs and assigns, for the purpose of constructing a perpetual memorial to the victims of that terrible tragedy, the Halifax Explosion;
2. Halifax City Council, through Section 21 of the City Charter, make a special donation to the Memorial Bells Committee of \$10,000 to assist the Committee in its construction;
3. Council make a formal commitment to the residents surrounding Fort Needham to ensure that there will neither now nor in the future, be any deterioration in their lifestyles because of increased traffic, parking, water course change or vandalism;
4. Council direct staff to carry out an immediate traffic study of the area and report back to Council the recommendations necessary to ensure that the foregoing criteria of lifestyle is assured.

The Chairman advised the mandate for the Committee was to location only and not on a donation, and requested that the Motion be separated.

2.....

A lengthy discussion on the Motion ensued with Alderman Doehler bringing attention to the portion of the motion dealing with deterioration in lifestyles, indicating it may be a restrictive term and questioned whether it might be defined. Alderman Doehler requested that the licensing agreement contain a clause if the City has concerns in the future, that the Committee or its successors must address those concerns in a fashion the City sees fit.

The Chairman advised the effect of the motion would be to the location of the Memorial Bells Memorial and put the Question, parts 1, 3 and 4. The Motion was passed unanimously.

MOVED by Alderman O'Malley, seconded by Alderman Grant that Halifax City Council make a donation of \$10,000 to assist the Memorial Bells Committee in the construction and maintenance of the Memorial as proposed.

MOVED by Alderman Hamshaw, seconded by Alderman Flynn the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole Council.

The Motion to defer was put and passed with Aldermen O'Malley and Grant voting against.

A TRUE EXTRACT

*G.I. Blennerhassett*  
G.I. BLENNERHASSETT  
CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION

THAT Council instruct the Legal Department to prepare the necessary documentation for Council's approval to have the requested site on Fort Needham licensed to the Memorial Bells Committee, their heirs and assigns, for the purpose of constructing a perpetual memorial to the victims of that terrible tragedy, the Halifax Explosion.

and further, that Halifax City Council through Section 21 of the City Charter make a special donation to the memorial bells Committee of \$10,000 to assist the Committee in its construction.

It is further moved that Council make a formal commitment to the residents surrounding Fort Needham to ensure that they will neither now nor in the future, be any deterioration in their lifestyles because of increased traffic, parking, water course change or vandalism

and that Council direct staff to carry out an immediate traffic study of the area and report back to Council the recommendations necessary to ensure that the foregoing criteria of lifestyle is assured.

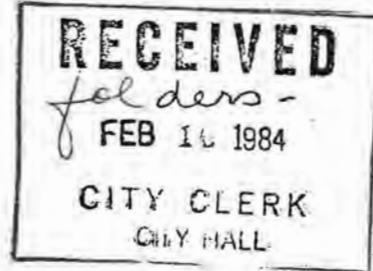
Centre for Water Resources Studies  
Technical University of Nova Scotia

PO Box 100  
1360 Barrington St  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada B3J 2X4

February 13, 1984

(902) 429-8300

Mr. M.H. Frank Harrington FRAIC  
5248 Morris Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 1B4



Dear Mr. Harrington:

Needham Memorial Bells Committee

Further to your request that I express an opinion about the runoff effects of the proposed structure, and our visit to the site on February 12:

The site of the structure is on a ridge sloping to the north. It therefore appears that the structure will not alter existing drainage patterns, and in particular it will not divert additional water toward houses on the eastern slope of the hill.

The size of the structure is not great enough to generate a significant amount of additional runoff, and any runoff so generated will flow in a predominately northward direction.

For these reasons I do not recognize any reason why surface runoff from the structure should be a matter of concern. I do not know enough about potential ground water problems in this area to be able to comment on these.

I am pleased, on behalf of the Centre, to be able to assist your committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. H. Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "W".

D. H. Walker, Ph.D., P. Eng.,  
Director,  
Centre for Water Resources Studies.

DHW/vi

COPY

REC'D - H. F. W. B., 319  
*Folder*  
FEB -- 1984  
CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

5382 Russell St.  
Halifax N.S.  
February 10, 1984

10.13

The Editor,  
The Mail-Star,  
Halifax N.S..

Sir:

The attempts being made to prevent the erection of a memorial to the victims of the Halifax explosion, on Fort Needham, should not be allowed to pass without comment.

A tower erected on the crest of the northern slope of Fort Needham, with access from Dartmouth Avenue, will cause neither traffic nor flooding problems.

A tower in this location, will overlook the area of Halifax which was devastated, as well as the area on the Dartmouth side of the harbor which also suffered death and devastation, and also the location where the ship collision occurred. The tower will also be visible from these aforementioned places.

This is in marked contrast to erect<sup>ing</sup> a memorial in the ill conceived Seaview park. About the only thing to be said for a memorial in that location, is that it would surely make the Guinness Book of Records for being the most inconspicuous memorial ever erected anywhere in this world.

Some of us survivors of the explosion have memories of relatives killed, of cousins orphaned, of schoolmates missing when classes were re-opened, of some of those present maimed for life, it is sad that this memorial proposal should be made the butt of petty pöhitcking.

Yours truly,

*Walter T. Murphy*  
Walter T. Murphy

RECEIVED  
FEB 15 1984  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Presented at Public Meeting  
Feb. 29/84 S. Gauthier

February 29, 1984.

Mayor Wallace  
members of Council

{  
MC Mayor  
Aldermen  
COUNCILS  
M. Woods - development  
1/3/84 MN

I cannot understand why there has been so much hesitation in choosing Fort Needham as the location for the Memorial to the victims of the Halifax Explosion.

As noted in a recent letter to the Editor, it is the ideal location. For those of you who may not have read the letter I quote the following paragraphs —

"A tower erected on the crest of the northern slope of Fort Needham, with access from Dartmouth Avenue, will cause neither traffic nor flooding problems.

A tower in this location will overlook the area of Halifax which was devastated, as well as the area <sup>on the</sup> Dartmouth side of the harbor which also suffered death and devastation, and also the location where the ship collision occurred."

In the summer months I have  
noted a City Tour bus going up  
Young Street pointing out the part of  
the city where the explosion occurred,

What better place for the tourists to  
view the area than from the top of  
Fort Needham.

I for one am looking forward to  
hearing the bells ring out again.

Mary A. Murphy

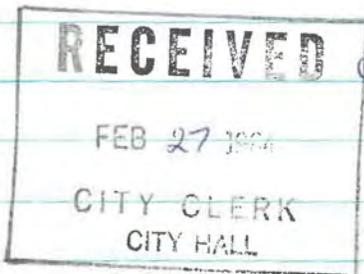
5275 Russell Street  
Halifax N.S.  
B3K 1N7

P.S. Re concerns on parking. This could  
be accommodated on the Richmond  
School property.

Sir

in reply to notice of 23/2/84  
re Fort Needham Memorial  
being one of the few remaining  
survivors of this holocaust I cannot  
see any other Place for it than  
Fort Needham site as it will  
over look the site & harbour  
where it happened I hope  
Sir that the Aldermans & Mayor  
will not Play Politics of  
this very important matter  
to me who are very lucky  
to be alive today with our  
memories & scars.

Fort Needham Port  
is the only site for this  
Memorial for me who  
survived this disaster



Albert L. Lawrence  
3154 Albert St  
Halifax N.S.  
133K-3299

5380 Young Street  
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia  
February 27, 1984

G.I. Blennerhassett  
City Clerk  
City of Halifax  
P.O. Box 1749  
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5



Dear Mr. Blennerhasset:

RE: Public Meeting - Fort Needham Memorial

As I will be unable to attend the public meeting on February 29, 1984 re the above, I would like you to know that I am in favour of the Memorial Church Bells being erected on the north-east corner of the Needham Park.

I think this is a suitable location as the explosion took place in that area and it would be fitting to keep the bells in the north end of the City.

Hope the above opinion is counted as a 'YES' in favour of keeping the Church Bells in the north end.

Yours very truly,

  
M.L. McKenna

*Dist.*

*Mayer  
ald  
clm  
cis  
m. woods, Real Estate  
l.s.  
Feb. 29/84*

3227 Union St

Halifax, B3K 5H7

N.S.

27 February 1984

RECEIVED

FEB 28 1984

CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

To  
His Worship the Mayor  
& Members of City Council  
Halifax, N.S.

In view of the fact a few residents of Union St Hft are using the meeting on the Bell installation, Fort Needham to request the street be blocked off at its north end to prevent extra traffic on the street, I would like to proffer my opinion, which is that it is essential Union St remain a through street.

In any disaster, it presents a 2 way exit. In case of a house fire on Union St, the fire brigade can travel the shortest route to the blaze - down Nova Lea Drive and through Dartmouth Ave into Union St.

Union St is a narrow street - where would oil trucks, delivery trucks, moving vans make a turn round if it ceased to be a through street

Respectfully submitted

Harvencio L. Tingley

Xd Mayor, Ald c/m c/o  
Dev Planning P.I.O

February 27, 1984



CORE DESIGN GROUP



Mayor Ron Wallace  
City of Halifax  
Argyle St.,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mayor Wallace:

In response to the recent debate concerning the location for the December 6, 1917 Halifax Explosion Tower to house the bells, may I take a few moments of your time to express my feelings on this most important topic.

ARCHITECTS  
ENGINEERS



While everyone unanimously agrees that a memorial to this most tragic event is long overdue and worthy of our careful deliberations, the debate over its location is understandable. May I say at the outset my heart is with this site at Fort Needham.

The design of the contemporary structure to house the bells was especially conceived for this site to commemorate a happening - the second largest manmade explosion on earth outside Hiroshima, Japan.

Through the complete integration of site and Bell Tower it is our hope that future generations will look at this exponent of Pristine Architecture and be reminded of the past (our heritage so rich), but be totally aware by its symbolism of the ever living present moment, that the future yet unborn is in good hands.

We as designers stated in the object and purpose of the design with its strong symbolism, that this site at Fort Needham was ideal for the tower location. It is perhaps the first time that a city such as Halifax has had a great opportunity to view its symbolic architecture from a great vantage point, viewed as it will be from so many angles - Nova Lea Drive, Dartmouth Avenue, Devonshire Avenue, from the bridges and within the site itself.

.../2

*Dist'd (Mayor's Office) ch/c/p, Ald.  
P.10; Mr Churchill, S. P.10.*

Core Design Group  
Suite 212 Duke Tower  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 1N9

(902) 422-1185  
Telex: 019-01894



The memorial can be seen to rise as an extension of the site with one of its axes aligned with the actual explosion location, growing from the earth as if it were part of the very hill. Embracing and standing for all to see, telling as it will its own story. It will be a stunning tribute to the vision of Haligonians, who will have on its completion, risen to address a moment in their great historic past.

At the risk of being melodramatic, one can imagine the reflections of the sun in the early morning mist, the grey days and in the high noon. The tower will be an emblazoned symbol of hope with its striking appearance growing from Fort Needham, with its bells ringing out across the city tolling for the first time visibly and audibly to its residents below and in Dartmouth, a reminder of the paths we have travelled since that awful day, and how we have got to where we are now.

The choice of site seems to me a totally right decision, facing and looking exactly down to where with the din of a discordant note in our City's past when the explosion devastated the site - a day in Haligonians history when no bird sang.

Sincerely,

CORE DESIGN GROUP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith L. Graham'.

Keith L. Graham, MRAIC  
President

KLG/lt

6306 Cork Str Apt 408  
Halifax, N.S.

February 29th/84

The Mayor  
and Aldermen  
City of Halifax  
c/o Mrs Blennerhassett  
City Clerk



Re: Fort Needham Memorial

Dist  
Mayor  
aid  
C/M  
C/S  
M. Woods  
Real Estate

Gentlemen:

It had been my intention to attend this evening's meeting however other responsibilities have made this impossible. Please accept this letter as brief comment on the subject.

I wish it known that I support the location of a memorial at Fort Needham for the following reasons:

1. It is an easily accessible site especially for older residents of the City who wish to walk by.
2. It is a site close to homes where people might enjoy the sound of the bells.
3. It is in the Northend that older members of my family remember as being destroyed by the Explosion.
4. As a tour guide for ten years, I feel it would be an attraction for visitors and give them a sense of direction for viewing the harbour and the Hydrostone District which signalled the re-building of the Northend.

I am sure at the Public Meeting you will hear many more valid reasons for the Fort Needham location. It is time such a large scale memorial

is erected.

As it has so often been mentioned as an alternative site I feel I must comment on "Seaview Park". Personally I feel the Park is a waste of money and I do not think the Explosion Memorial should be used to justify the existence of this Park. The location of the memorial would distort the history of the Explosion site and the damage it caused. Rockhead Prison did not suffer as Richmond and St Joseph's Schools did. Access is limited and stopping on Bridge roads is not allowed. The Mont Blanc was not in the Basin but in the Narrows. The Seaview Park site would be better sold for offshore uses and the increased revenue to the City could be used to support existing recreation facilities in the Northend. The Memorial, as mentioned above, should not be used to justify this Park. Possibly a public meeting on this park would be in the City's interest.

Again I feel the proper location for this Memorial to the Great Explosion is Fort Needham. Further I believe the committee responsible for raising funds and erecting the memorial should be given all quick assistance possible.

Respectfully

Blair J. Beed.

is erected.

As it has so often been mentioned as an alternative site I feel I must comment on "Seaview Park". Personally I feel the Park is a waste of money and I do not think the Explosion Memorial should be used to justify the existence of this Park. The location of the memorial would distort the history of the Explosion site and the damage it caused. Rockhead Prison did not suffer as Richmond and St Joseph's Schools did. Access is limited and stopping on Bridge roads is not allowed. The Mont Blanc was not in the Basin but in the Narrows. The Seaview Park site would be better sold for offshore uses and the increased revenue to the City could be used to support existing recreation facilities in the Northend. The Memorial, as mentioned above, should not be used to justify this Park. Possibly a public meeting on this park would be in the City's interest.

Again I feel the proper location for this Memorial to the Great Explosion is Fort Needham. Further I believe the committee responsible for raising funds and erecting the memorial should be given all quick assistance possible.

Respectfully

Blair S. Beed.



CITY COUNCIL

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

TO: Director of Development  
cc: M. Woods, Development

10.13

Halifax, N. S., February 21 19 84

Extracts from Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Halifax

held on the 16th day of February 19 84

United Memorial Church Bells

The recommendation of the Finance & Executive Committee was that the item be held in abeyance until such time as answers to the questions raised at the February 8th meeting of the Finance & Executive Committee are forthcoming and further, that staff prepare a questionnaire on behalf of Council seeking the community's opinion with regard to the erection of the memorial bells on the proposed site.

Alderman O'Malley advised that he prepared a questionnaire which was circulated to members of Council prior to the meeting and MOVED, seconded by Alderman Grant that the submitted questionnaire be circulated to the residents of Needham Street, Union Street, Young Street, Devonshire Avenue, and Novalea Drive between Young Street and Devonshire, east side, and that the item be returned to the Committee of the Whole Council on March 1st for consideration of the result of the questionnaire and final decision.

A discussion followed including whether the Motion should be divided and the Chairman ruled that the Motion should be considered in two parts with the first resolution to be considered reading as follows:

"That the subject of the United Memorial Church Bells be returned to Council at its meeting of March 1st for a decision."

Following a short discussion the Motion was put and resulted in a tie vote, six voting for it and six voting against it. The Chairman voted in favour of the motion and declared it to be passed.

Council then considered the second part of the Motion reading as follows:

"That the petition submitted by Alderman O'Malley be circulated to the residents of Needham Street, Union Street, Young Street, Devonshire Avenue, and Novalea Drive between Young Street and Devonshire Avenue."

2.....

Alderman Flynn questioned whether Council should not hold a public meeting on the subject to be held in the Council Chamber on say, February 29th with a public advertisement placed in the newspaper.

Following a further short discussion, the second Motion was put and Lost.

MOVED by Alderman Flynn, seconded by Alderman Hamshaw a public meeting be held on the subject in the Council Chamber on Wednesday, February 29th.

Alderman O'Malley proposed an amendment that the residents of Needham Street, Union Street, Young Street, Devonshire Avenue, and Novalea Drive between Young Street and Devonshire Avenue, be forwarded a special notice of the public meeting including the subject to be discussed and an invitation to attend, and Council agreed that the suggestion by Alderman O'Malley should form part of the Motion.

The City Manager advised that staff would immediately deliver notices to every household in the area and advertise the meeting as well.

The Motion was put and passed.

A TRUE COPY



G.I. BLENNERHASSETT  
CITY CLERK

10.13

Dear Resident:

You have probably read or heard in the media that a committee of citizens has asked the City to construct a Memorial Wall on Fort Needham containing some ten chimes or bells from the United Memorial Church. This Monument is proposed to honour those who died in the 1917 Halifax Explosion. The Monument will be approximately 125 feet long,, and 60 feet high. The bells will be inserted in the wall and the bells will be "played" or rung both from the site or from United Memorial Church. The Monument will be lighted with flood lights at night and will run in a north-south direction. A sketch is enclosed of the proposal.

As the construction of this project MAY have some effects on:

- a) increasing traffic - bus tours - visitors in cars,
- b) vandalism on top of Fort Needham,
- c) parking of visitors wishing to visit the site,
- d) changing the water drainage of the Fort, therefore possibly changing the water flow into backyards on Union Street and Devonshire Ave.,

City Council has asked for your opinion on placing the project as proposed.

IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ABOVE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS (a) TO (d) ARE NOT CONFIRMED PROBLEMS. THEY ARE SEEN AS POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME.

Should the Monument be built the City will make sure that every one of these will be addressed and every possible step taken to minimize the effects.

If you would please check the following questions and return this form to Mrs. G. Blennerhassett, City Clerk, c/o Halifax City Hall, you will greatly help City Council in its decision of the request by the Bells Committee to allow the project to be constructed.

1. Do you agree that the project of the "Bells Memorial" should be permitted to be located and constructed as proposed?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you agree that the location of the "Bells Memorial" project on Fort Needham is the acceptable location?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you agree that size and shape of the Memorial is appropriate for the location?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. Alternate suggestions have been made that the "Bells Memorial" project would be more appropriate:
  1. By rebuilding the Bell Tower on United Memorial Church - replacing the "Bells" on top and placing the proper plaque remembering the tragic event on the bottom.  
Do you agree: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Constructing a Memorial (which might include the "Bells" in playable condition (with Provincial Government Financial Support) in the new Seaview Park just north of the "narrows" where the tragedy happened.

COW - Feb 8 184 4.18

10.13

From: THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CITY OF HALIFAX

To: -Mike Woods, Development



Date: February 10/84

*COW - Feb 8 184*  
Re: United Memorial Church Bells

The committee motion will go to City Council next week but I thought you might like to get started on the requested information.

Judy

003-033-0

*B.O.W. Finance  
Feb 8/84*

United Memorial Church Bells

A letter dated February 7, 1984 from R.H. "Dick" MacLean, Secretary, Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee, was submitted. A staff report dated February 3, 1984, was also submitted.

Alderman O'Malley addressed the matter referring to the letter from Mr. MacLean. Alderman O'Malley indicated that he felt that many questions had not been answered and many of these questions were of concern to area residents as indicated by the Public Meetings held by the Memorial Bells Committee. Alderman O'Malley outlined the concerns of the residents as including increased traffic problems, vandalism, and possible increase in flooding problems in the area. Alderman O'Malley indicated that he felt that the staff report was not sufficient and that some of the questions posed to staff had not been answered in enough detail.

Alderman O'Malley referred to an information report dated January 30, 1984 from the City Solicitor noting that the only avenue open to Council in permitting the use of the proposed site was licensing. He further noted that licensing of the site would probably include a request from the City for the Bells Committee to obtain liability insurance.

Alderman O'Malley further questioned the amount of monies allotted for the upkeep of the memorial wondering if this amount would be sufficient.

Alderman O'Malley further referred to some indecision with regard to the funding of the memorial indicating that since this appeared to be undecided at this time did it not seem reasonable for the questions posed by residents be answered as there would appear to be no great rush with regard to the memorial construction.

Alderman O'Malley stressed the fact that neither he nor the residents of the area were opposed to the principle of the memorial

*L.O.W.*  
Finance  
February 8, 1984

but felt that the concerns of the area residents should be considered as well as the questions of Committee.

Alderman Grant referred to a questionnaire which is to be distributed to members of the immediate area through a citizen group organized at the public meetings. He suggested that Council should prepare and distribute a questionnaire as well.

*Refer to this*

MOVED by Alderman O'Malley, seconded by Alderman Grant that this matter be held in abeyance until such time as answers to the questions raised this evening are forthcoming and further that staff prepare a questionnaire on behalf of Council, seeking the community's opinion with regard to the erection of the memorial bells on the proposed site.

It was agreed at this time that persons wishing to address this matter be allowed to give a presentation to Council.

Mr. Alex McCleave, a resident of Union Street and one of the citizen group previously mentioned by Alderman O'Malley, addressed Council indicating that he and his neighbours supported fully the idea of a memorial to explosion victims. However, Mr. McCleave indicated that there were some concerns and that the previously mentioned questionnaire would outline these concerns. Mr. McCleave assured Council that the questionnaire would not be biased in any way.

Mr. McCleave then responded to questions from members of Council regarding his personal concerns regarding the memorial site. Mr. McCleave noted that his personal concern was in regard to traffic, and it would appear from presentations given at the public meeting the concern of other residents in the area.

Mr. McCleave outlined the areas to be considered in the questionnaire as follows: 1. traffic 2. lighting 3. noise 4. vandalism and 5. run off:

Mr. R.H. MacLean, Secretary, Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee, addressed Council indicating that if there was a parking problem in the area it has been there in the past. He noted that public meetings were held and representation made. He further noted that many letters and donations had been received and that overall the proposal seems to be well received.

Mr. MacLean urged Council to approve the matter in principle in order that completion of the memorial be carried out before December 6, 1984.

Mr. MacLean responded to questions from Alderman Grant regarding the possibility of the Committee retaining insurance as outlined in the City Solicitor's report. Mr. MacLean indicated that the Committee was willing to do so and noted that claims relating to water damage would be dealt with if proven.

*B. O. W.*

Finance  
February 8, 1984

Alderman Grant questioned Mr. MacLean with regard to the intention of the Committee in relation to parking. Mr. MacLean indicated that he felt this should be a City responsibility.

Further questioning ensued with Alderman O'Malley noting the date of December 6, 1984 and asking its significance.

Mr. MacLean noted that this was the date of expiry of the agreement held with the church after which time the matter would go back to the Church Council. Mr. MacLean expressed a desire that this not happen.

Mrs. Janet F. Kitz, Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee, addressed the Council noting that recently she has done a great deal of interviewing of explosion survivors in the recent months. She indicated that the response from these persons to the memorial was enthusiastic and the feeling among these people was this should be done as soon as possible.

Mr. Graham Hicks, a resident of Union Street, addressed Council in favor of the proposed site noting that he had lived next to the bell tower for a number of years and no adverse affect had been caused by the ringing of the bells, therefore, he felt noise would not create a problem. He went on to note that the school facilities could be used as parking as well as what is locally known as lovers lookout. He noted that lovers lookout would certainly need upgrading and possibly extension. He suggested that the memorial be put in place for this years' anniversary and if that was not possible as soon as possible thereafter.

Mr. Khattar, Union Street, addressed Council noting that he was a member of the citizens Committee but indicating any comments made tonight were his personal feelings rather than on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Khattar noted that he was not opposed to the erection of a memorial to the explosion victims but felt that the concerns of the residents should be considered and discussed before this memorial was erected on this site.

Mr. Khattar then responded to questions from members of Council.

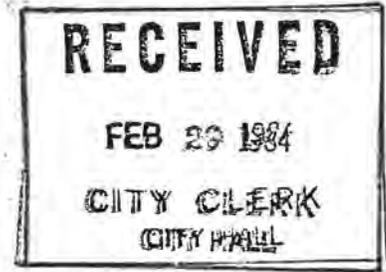
Further discussion ensued with Alderman Doehler suggesting that Council should reconfirm their motion of August 1980 and approve in principle the site pending the successful resolution of the concerns expressed by the area residents.

Alderman O'Malley pointed out that the deferral requested would be of short duration perhaps only three weeks.

Alderman LeBlanc voiced concern over the controversy which has arisen over this matter, noting that he felt that any attempt at preservation of Halifax history should be carried out in a cooperative spirit. Motion passed.

5380 Young Street  
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia  
February 27, 1984

G.I. Blennerhassett  
City Clerk  
City of Halifax  
P.O. Box 1749  
HALIFAX, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5



Dear Mr. Blennerhassett:

RE: Public Meeting - Fort Needham Memorial

As I will be unable to attend the public meeting on February 29, 1984 re the above, I would like you to know that I am in favour of the Memorial Church Bells being erected on the north-east corner of the Needham Park.

I think this is a suitable location as the explosion took place in that area and it would be fitting to keep the bells in the north end of the City.

Hope the above opinion is counted as a 'YES' in favour of keeping the Church Bells in the north end.

Yours very truly,

*M. L. McKenna*  
M.L. McKenna

*Dist:*

*Mayer  
ald  
CIA  
GIS  
m. Wads, Real Estate  
L.H.  
Feb. 29/84*

17.5

February 27, 1984



CORE DESIGN GROUP



Mayor Ron Wallace  
City of Halifax  
Argyle St.,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mayor Wallace:

ARCHITECTS  
ENGINEERS

In response to the recent debate concerning the location for the December 6, 1917 Halifax Explosion Tower to house the bells, may I take a few moments of your time to express my feelings on this most important topic.



While everyone unanimously agrees that a memorial to this most tragic event is long overdue and worthy of our careful deliberations, the debate over its location is understandable. May I say at the outset my heart is with this site at Fort Needham.

The design of the contemporary structure to house the bells was especially conceived for this site to commemorate a happening - the second largest manmade explosion on earth outside Hiroshima, Japan.

Through the complete integration of site and Bell Tower it is our hope that future generations will look at this exponent of Pristine Architecture and be reminded of the past (our heritage so rich), but be totally aware by its symbolism of the ever living present moment, that the future yet unborn is in good hands.

We as designers stated in the object and purpose of the design with its strong symbolism, that this site at Fort Needham was ideal for the tower location. It is perhaps the first time that a city such as Halifax has had a great opportunity to view its symbolic architecture from a great vantage point, viewed as it will be from so many angles - Nova Lea Drive, Dartmouth Avenue, Devonshire Avenue, from the bridges and within the site itself.

.../2

*Dist'd (Mayor's Office) Encls; Aled.  
P.O. Mr Churcher; L.S. P. 10.*

Core Design Group  
Suite 212, Duke Tower  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 1N9

(902) 422-1486  
Telex 019-21894



The memorial can be seen to rise as an extension of the site with one of its axes aligned with the actual explosion location, growing from the earth as if it were part of the very hill. Embracing and standing for all to see, telling as it will its own story. It will be a stunning tribute to the vision of Haligonians, who will have on its completion, risen to address a moment in their great historic past.

At the risk of being melodramatic, one can imagine the reflections of the sun in the early morning mist, the grey days and in the high noon. The tower will be an emblazoned symbol of hope with its striking appearance growing from Fort Needham, with its bells ringing out across the city tolling for the first time visibly and audibly to its residents below and in Dartmouth, a reminder of the paths we have travelled since that awful day, and how we have got to where we are now.

The choice of site seems to me a totally right decision, facing and looking exactly down to where with the din of a discordant note in our City's past when the explosion devastated the site - a day in Haligonians history when no bird sang.

Sincerely,

CORE DESIGN GROUP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith L. Graham'.

Keith L. Graham, MRAIC  
President

KLK/lt

17.5

*Council  
Feb 16, 1984*

United Memorial Church Bells

The recommendation of the Finance & Executive Committee was that the item be held in abeyance until such time as answers to the questions raised at the February 8th meeting of the Finance & Executive Committee are forthcoming and further, that staff prepare a questionnaire on behalf of Council seeking the community's opinion with regard to the erection of the memorial bells on the proposed site.

Alderman O'Malley advised that he prepared a questionnaire which was circulated to members of Council prior to the meeting and MOVED, seconded by Alderman Grant that the submitted questionnaire be circulated to the residents of Needham Street, Union Street, Young Street, Devonshire Avenue, and Novalea Drive between Young Street and Devonshire, east side, and that the item be returned to the Committee of the Whole Council on March 1st for consideration of the result of the questionnaire and final decision.

A discussion followed including whether the Motion should be divided and the Chairman ruled that the Motion should be considered in two parts with the first resolution to be considered reading as follows:

"That the subject of the United Memorial Church Bells be returned to Council at its meeting of March 1st for a decision."

Council  
February 16, 1984

Following a short discussion the Motion was put and resulted in a tie vote, six voting for it and six voting against it. The Chairman voted in favour of the motion and declared it to be passed.

Council then considered the second part of the Motion reading as follows:

"That the petition submitted by Alderman O'Malley be circulated to the residents of Needham Street, Union Street, Young Street, Devonshire Avenue, and Novalea Drive between Young Street and Devonshire Avenue."

Alderman Flynn questioned whether Council should not hold a public meeting on the subject to be held in the Council Chamber on say, February 29th with a public advertisement placed in the newspaper.

Following a further short discussion, the second Motion was put and Lost.

MOVED by Alderman Flynn, seconded by Alderman Hamshaw a public meeting be held on the subject in the Council Chamber on Wednesday, February 29th.

Alderman O'Malley proposed an amendment that the residents of Needham Street, Union Street, Young Street, Devonshire Avenue, and Novalea Drive between Young Street and Devonshire Avenue, be forwarded a special notice of the public meeting including the subject to be discussed and an invitation to attend, and Council agreed that the suggestion by Alderman O'Malley should form part of the Motion.

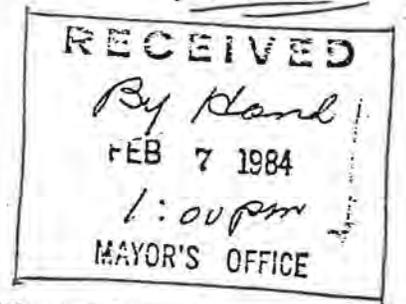
The City Manager advised that staff would immediately deliver notices to every household in the area and advertise the meeting as well.

The Motion was put and passed.

9:45 P. M. - The meeting adjourned for a short recess.

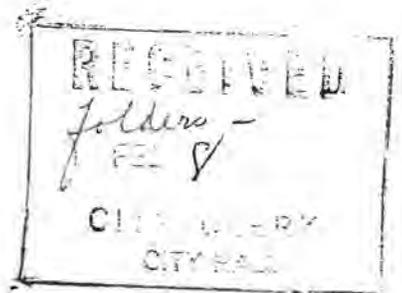
# HALIFAX EXPLOSION MEMORIAL BELLS COMMITTEE

Box 1267  
Halifax North Postal Stn.  
B3K 5H4  
(902) 421-6730



February 7, 1984

His Worship  
Mayor Ron Wallace  
1941 Argyle Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5



Your Worship:

The Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee held its second public meeting on February 1, 1984 at 7:30 p.m. at United Memorial Church. There were over forty-five people in attendance.

The first public meeting to discuss the site for the Memorial Tower was held on November 15, 1983. Over one hundred citizens of Halifax have attended the two meetings.

There has not been one objection to the Memorial Tower being placed on Fort Needham. In fact, there has been total support for the site. In addition, our local press and radio have also reported the community support for this project. There are many letters on file, which have come to the Committee with donations, supporting the sit

At our last meeting, three residents from Union Street reported concerns about traffic on their street. The problem appears to be there now and is something the Committee itself cannot correct, but we are more than willing to co-operate with the Resident Committee formed to resolve the traffic problem.

There is no opposition to the memorial site and certainly no reason to hold up an approval in principal of this site on February 8, 1984.

.../2



4.18  
Supplementary Report  
Committee of the Whole  
February 8, 1984

Dist'd -  
CITY CLERK

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council  
From: Paul Calda, P.Eng., City Manager  
Date: February 3, 1984  
Subject: Relocation - United Memorial Church Bells

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This report deals with the items not answered in the staff Information Report of January 18, 1984.

Answers to questions three and four were provided separately by an Information Report from the Legal Department. In addition, a draft questionnaire has been prepared for Council's consideration. Council might wish to give staff some further direction regarding this item.

With regard to question 11, the only costs that can be envisioned with respect to City involvement relate to future maintenance resulting from any vandalism that might occur, i.e. broken bottles, markings on the proposed structure necessitating removal of same. Also an undetermined number of ornamental plantings are proposed, necessitating minor maintenance in addition to periodic inspections of the bell assemblies.

Presumably the revenues generated from the perpetual care endowment of \$27,900. would be sufficient to cover the above costs. The grounds maintenance could be done by the City and billed accordingly.

The Civic Historian has also indicated that the site of the 18th Century Fort Needham could be in the vicinity of the proposed location for the memorial and has expressed interest in performing an archaeological excavation before the project proceeds.

MPW/sfs

  
Paul Calda, P.Eng.,  
City Manager

Prepared by:  
M.P. Woods, Development Assistant <sup>mex</sup>

Approved by:  
R.B. Grant, Director  
Development Department



DRAFT

Dear Resident:

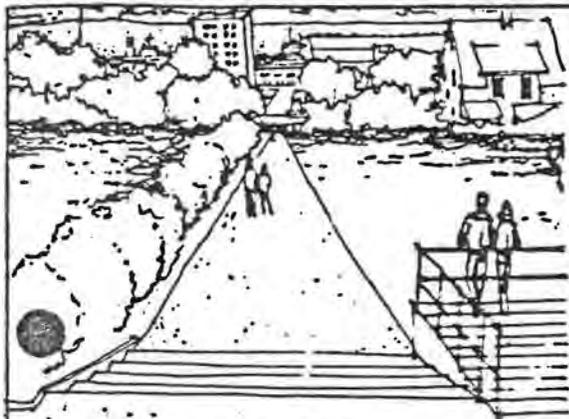
Halifax City Council is currently considering a proposal from the Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee to erect a bell tower at the northeast corner of Fort Needham Park. The tower to be erected on a granite platform has been designed to house a chime of ten bells originally donated in 1921 to the United Memorial Church in memory of the Samuel Orr family. The bells were removed from the church tower in 1975 due to structural problems.

A schematic of the proposed tower as presented in the local newspapers is attached and shows various site elevations. The site overlooks the Narrows where the collision of the Imo and Mont Blanc took place. The narrow angular construction will be 60 feet at the highest point, sloping 150 degrees to disappear into the side of the hill. The principal building material will be monolithic hydrostone, with copper sheathing covering the inclined surface and bell enclosures.

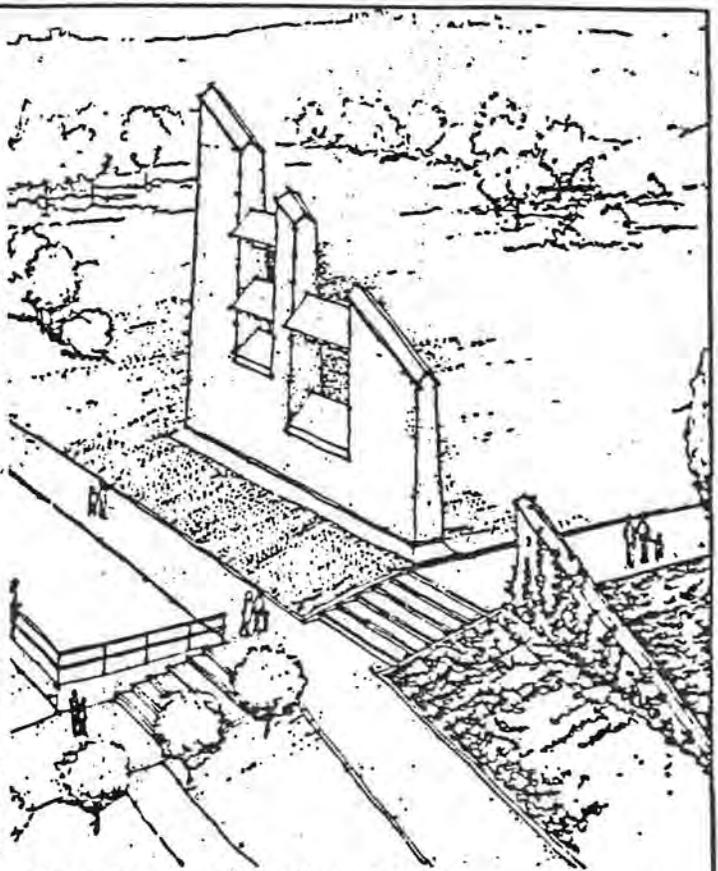
It is proposed that the chimes be able to be played from a keyboard at the United Memorial Church as well as on site at the monument platform. The Memorial Committee has indicated it plans to activate the bells at an annual Explosion Memorial Service and prior to Sunday services between 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., in addition to Holy Days throughout the year. In other words, the bells would operate at times similar to the hours of operation when they were located in the church tower.

Residents should note that the memorial structure will be located away from and will not interfere with any of the play or recreational areas. The existence of the memorial and the special occasions when the bells are activated will result in some increase of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic to the park and immediate surrounding area, although it might be expected that this would be significant on only a few days in the year.

As part of the review process, a designated area of survey surrounding Fort Needham Park was chosen. City Council has appointed a special committee consisting of Alderman Gerald O'Malley and Alderman Rick Grant to investigate and advise on the proposal. The Committee wishes to inform you of the proposal to obtain your reaction as to its acceptability in addition to any other comments you might have. Your cooperation in this regard would certainly be appreciated.



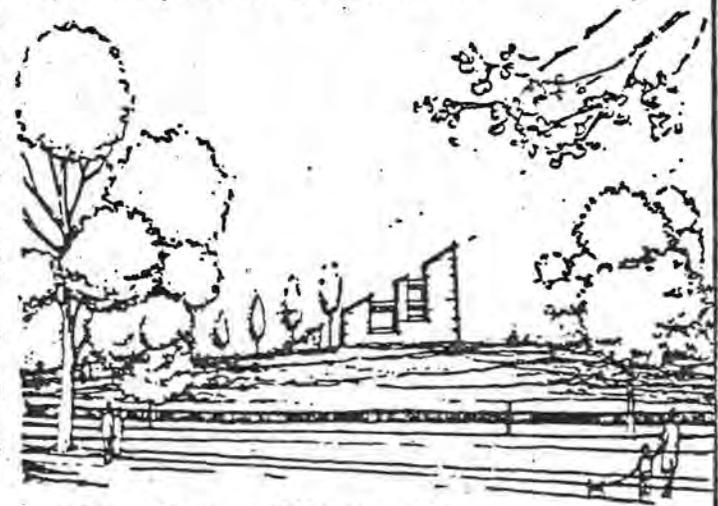
view to explosion site



view from union st. entrance



view from dartmouth



view from gottingen st.

A self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Question: Are you in favour of the proposal as submitted by the Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee to relocate the bells to Fort Needham Park?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Question: Do you have any areas of concern or suggestions that might be helpful in assessing the proposal?

General Comments:

RECEIVED

JAN 31/84

CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

TO: His Worship The Mayor and Members of City Council  
FROM: Donald F. Murphy, Q.C., City Solicitor  
DATE: January 30th, 1984  
SUBJECT: Bells - United Memorial On Fort Needham

This report is in response to questions 3 and 4 of Alderman O'Malley's letter of January 9, 1984 to the City Manager, a copy of which is attached.

The Fort Neeham Memorial Park was deeded to the City in 1942 by the Halifax Relief Commission and by agreement dated the 25th day of August, 1949, the lands were established as a public park as a memorial to the victims of the Halifax Explosion of 1917 to be used as a public park forever. If the City were to convey the site to a body to be used for the housing of the bells, the transfer would have to be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs pursuant to section 401(2) of the City Charter and fair market value would have to be paid for the lands conveyed. (section 401(1))

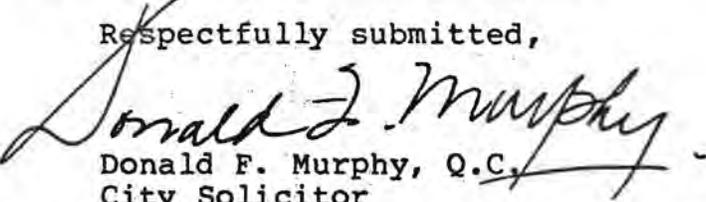
There is some doubt as to whether the subject lands can in fact legally be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of. While section 401(2) gives the power to the City, with the approval of the Minister, to dispose of lands acquired or used as public parks, section 401(3) prohibits the City from conveying or leasing lands which have been dedicated to the City as a gift for a specific purpose.

Accordingly, the most feasible approach if ownership of the bells is not transferred to the City would be for the City to grant a license to the owners of the bells to locate them on a specific location in the park. A license could give the owner of the bells the right of exclusive possession of the site, but would retain title in the City.

As to liability, at common law the courts have historically placed the responsibility for protecting visitors to premises against injury on the occupier of the premises as opposed to the owner. While recent cases would indicate that in the future some departure may be made from this doctrine, today the responsibility would still seem to rest with the occupier. In the present case, if the premises were granted to the owners

of the bells under a license for exclusive possession of the premises occupied by the bells, the law would appear to place the responsibility on them to protect the public from injury. Further assurances could be gained by placing covenants in the license agreement requiring the licensee to maintain the premises in a safe condition. Further protection for the City from liability could be gained by requiring the licensee to carry liability insurance with the City as a named insured.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Donald F. Murphy, Q.C.,  
City Solicitor

WA/rcb

Prepared by Wayne Anstey, Senior Solicitor

Despite controversy...

# Aldermen seek Fort Needham for memorial

By Sheryl Grant  
City Hall Reporter

Halifax city council will be asked next month to authorize selection of a site on Fort Needham for a memorial to commemorate the Halifax explosion.

Ald. Gerald O'Malley, member of a two-member city committee established to study the memorial proposal, said Friday he and committee partner Alderman Rick Grant will recommend to council in February that a site be chosen on Fort Needham for the memorial proposed by the Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee.

"As the two of us have lived our lives in the north end and lost family members to the explosion, it is only natural that we have very deep emotional ties to the tragedy," he said.

The request is expected to come forward Feb. 8.

The proposed memorial became a subject of controversy late last year when plans to build a monument on Fort Needham, incorporating bells donated to the church in memory of Orr family members killed in the explosion, were announced to the public before being brought to the city.

The city also seemed to see the plans as proceeding without regard for the fact it had already had an official memorial to the Halifax explosion in the form of the Halifax Memorial Library, and had planned to build another at Seaview Park.

When the proposal was finally brought to council, the decision was made to defer the issue until the city had studied the proposal, since the property sought by the bells com-

mittee as the memorial site is owned by the city.

The controversy came to a head in a bout of political mudslinging in December when Social Services Minister Edmund Morris, MLA for the Fort Needham area, accused Ald. O'Malley of obstructing the project for his own political purposes.

Ald. O'Malley denied that claim Friday, saying his efforts for the past several years have been toward finding a home for the bells which have lain dormant since being removed from the bell tower at United Memorial Church in 1975.

The alderman said the Fort Needham site presents some problems, such as the conflict of vehicular traffic to and from the proposed memorial with the recreational uses of the fort, which must be worked out before the go-ahead is given.

"We have waited sixty-seven years. We should take enough time to do it properly," he said.

"We don't want it to decay in a few years."

Council has directed city staff to provide answers for a number of questions on the proposed memorial posed by area residents.

"As soon as these are properly planned we will do our utmost to honour all those Haligonians and others who died and suffered so tragically," Ald. O'Malley said.

He added that despite his committee's planned recommendation for a Fort Needham memorial, the city would not abandon its plans to construct a memorial to the explosion at Seaview Park.

*L. O. W.  
Finance Jan 18/84*

Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee

An information report dated January 18, 1984 was submitted. The Committee agreed that the above item be deferred to the next regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole Council. —

*Feb 2*

INFORMATION REPORT

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council  
 From: Paul Calda, P.Eng., City Manager  
 Date: January 18, 1984  
 Subject: Relocation - United Memorial Church Bells

**RECEIVED**  
 JAN 18 1984  
 P.M.  
 CITY CLERK  
 CITY HALL

This report is in response to questions raised in the attached letter of January 9 from Alderman O'Malley who was appointed by Council along with Alderman Grant to examine the matter of locating the United Memorial Church bells on Fort Needham. Questions are answered in the order as presented.

1. A preliminary aerial plan has been prepared for display which incorporates an affected area boundary, of Duffus, Macara, Barrington and Agricola Streets. Schools within this area are shown in blue and day care centres are colored green. Staff will attempt to determine by January 23, which centres regularly use the site. There are a total of five access points to the park which are off Union Street, Novalea Drive and Needham Street and are shown in yellow. Due to time constraints, and site conditions, staff was unable to locate precisely the playground area and baseball diamond but the appropriate location is annotated.

2. The location, area and approximate dimensions of the bell tower and viewing platform proposed by the sponsors have been superimposed on the aerial plan. Staff is unaware of any parking facility or proposed traffic to be accommodated on Fort Needham. With respect to parking on-street, all streets whose curb lines are not colored red are available for parking.

3 & 4. Answers to these questions will be supplied by the next regular meeting of Committee of the Whole Council (February 8).

5 & 6. The number of residences contained within the subject area as noted in section one is approximately 750 and some guidance from Council or the Bells Committee is requested as to the extent of the suggested poll. A proposed format for a questionnaire will be available at or before the next regular Committee of the Whole meeting.

7. Staff is not prepared to comment on the long term structural adequacy of the proposed structure nor the effect of the water course/hill drainage. However, the Memorial Bells Committee's consultant has indicated core samples will be taken by professional soils analysts, Jacques Whitford & Associates Ltd., to determine the substructure of the hill. As a matter of course the structural adequacy of any plans submitted would be reviewed prior to the issuance of any building permit and they must be certified by the applicant's consultants.

8. The architect (Core Design Group) has indicated an overhead pole line would be run from the United Memorial Church on Young Street up Union Street to Fort Needham. The line would then be buried most likely in or adjacent to the crushed stone roadway to the viewing platform. An electrical junction box would be attached to the platform. An underground line would connect the junction box and the actual strikers in the bell tower.

Legally speaking, the City should give an easement over the underground portion for possible future servicing requirements. The proponents would be responsible for ascertaining whose poles are located along Union Street and obtaining permission from that body to run the cables together with paying any necessary pole rentals. The proponents have indicated earlier at Council that a trust fund would be established to cover ongoing future costs, one of which would be the pole rental.

9. Mr. Roy Wilson, Committee member of United Memorial Church, has indicated that the old frame was comprised of oak. It was not designed to support the weight nor the vibrations of the bells. The largest bell weighs 1,800 lbs. while the total weight of the bells and the tower was approximately two tons.

The tower base was not originally designed to bear this weight and as such, water seepage resulted within the old tower and also within the church rooms below. Representatives from L.E. Shaw Limited and other groups studied the tower in 1974, prior to the removal of the top 25' of the tower, to ascertain if it could be redesigned to support such a weight. It was concluded this was not possible.

Any further opinion required in this regard should be received from independent structural engineers rather than from City staff.

10. The following statement with respect to the Halifax Memorial Library (North Branch) has been provided by the Chief Librarian:

"The North Branch Library building is a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Explosion of 1917. Funding for the construction of the building included \$100,000 from the Halifax Relief Commission.

The sculpture in front of the building was designed to be symbolic of the Halifax Explosion and the City's rebirth after the catastrophe. The sculpture includes a piece of metal donated by Elizabeth Anne Freeman who in 1966 resided at 1038 Robie Street, Halifax. This piece of metal struck the home of Elizabeth Anne Freeman's parents, Mr. Mrs. W.B. Freeman at 158 Windsor Street on December 6, 1917."



January 9, 1984

Mr. Paul Calda  
City Manager  
City of Halifax  
P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Calda:

Prior to the Christmas Holiday season, as you will remember, Alderman R. Grant and I were appointed by Council to look into the matter of locating the Bells of "United Memorial" on Fort Needham.

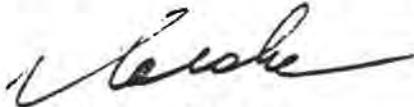
I have received, in this regard, a very brief and uninformative paper from the Real Estate Department of the City. In order that we assess this matter for our report to Council, I would ask the following be responded to.

1. A complete drawing of the Fort area outlining a) playground area; b) minor league baseball area; c) surrounding schools and day care centers whose children regularly use the playground facilities (a questionnaire may be sent) and finally which accesses to the area are used by these children.
- 2) The exact location, area and geometric configuration which would be taken by the proposed memorial. If in fact vehicles of any kind are to be accommodated close to the proposed monument (such as tour busses, tourist cars, vehicles attending the "Bells Concerts" proposed for the platform fronting the proposed monument. If so, where are said vehicles to be accommodated, i.e. is a parking facility on the Fort or traffic over it proposed? If not, on which streets surrounding the area will parking be accommodated.
3. If a defined geometric configuration of land is assigned will a deed of transfer be made or will the city retain ownership? If the latter, will the city have legal ownership and therefore all time legal liability for the Bells and their housing?

...../2

11. Further staff information or advice, if any, will be provided at or before the February 8 meeting of Committee of the Whole.

MPW/JDB/sfs



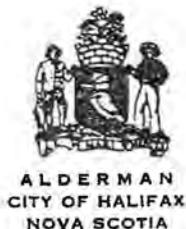
P. Calda, P.Eng.,  
City Manager

Prepared by:

M.P. Woods, Development Assistant  
J.D. Bauld, Management Assistant

Approved by:

R.B. Grant, Director, Development Department  
P.S. Connell, Director, Engineering & Works



Mr. Paul Calda  
January 9, 1984  
Page 2.

4. Are there any restrictions, legal or financial, to the transfer of such land if required?
5. We would like an outline of the number of residences and location for a reasonable surrounding distance of the Fort site in order to have a City administered pole taken of the views of those adults and children who use the Fort site as a park on a daily basis.
6. We would like a proposed format of such a questionnaire for such a poll which would outline all of the formal facts as a prologue to asking the necessary public question.
7. We would like staffs engineering judgments on the long term structural adequacy of the proposed structure vis-a-vis effect of water course or hill drainage, etc.
8. We would like an outline of the proposed method of running connecting cables between the church and the proposed site and any city implications associated with this legally and financially now and in the long run.
9. We would like a staff opinion on the feasibility of reconstructing the existing "Bell Tower" on United Memorial Church and replacing the carillon thereon with appropriate plaques.
10. We would like a complete outline of this development and status of Halifax North Memorial Library as a formally established monument to the victims of the Halifax Explosion. You might contact the Library Board for a copy of the Opening Ceremonies in 1967 of this branch of the Library.
11. Finally, we would like any additional information, not included above, related to City costs in the short and long run, and any other information staff in their wisdom may provide which would fully analyze this proposal.

...../3

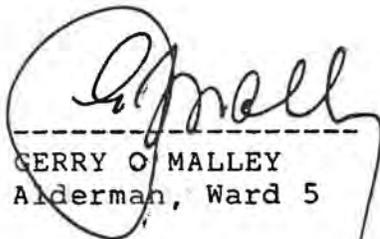


ALDERMAN  
CITY OF HALIFAX  
NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Paul Calda  
January 8, 1984  
Page 3.

Your co-operation in assembling the foregoing is appreciated.

Yours very truly,



GERRY O'MALLEY  
Alderman, Ward 5

GO'M/DR

## Halifax City Regional Library Board

Appointed by City of Halifax  
Judge Nathan Green, Chairman (Building Committee)  
Mayor Charles A. Vaughan  
Alderman Allan O'Brien (Building Committee)  
Alderman L. E. Moir  
Mrs. Angus L. Macdonald  
Mr. A. L. Caldwell (Building Committee)  
Mrs. W. C. Dunlop

Appointed by Province of Nova Scotia  
Mrs. J. J. Powell  
Mr. Walter M. Piers

Mary E. Cameron, Chief Librarian & Secretary.

In addition to the Building Committee, consisting of Chairman, Judge Green, Alderman O'Brien and Mr. Caldwell many others have devoted much time and thought to making the building functional as well as attractive. These participants are Mr. Lincoln Cheng of the City Planning Department, and from the Library staff, Miss Mary E. Cameron, Miss Ellen P. Webster, Miss Pauline Home, Miss Kathleen Currie, Miss Edith Clare and Miss Adelia Amyony.

The library will be open regular hours for inspection and registration of borrowers October 25 & 29. Books may be borrowed November 1 and after.

### HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 1:30-5:30 P.M. and 6:30-9:00 P.M.

Wednesday 10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 1:30 - 6:00 P.M.

Saturday 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

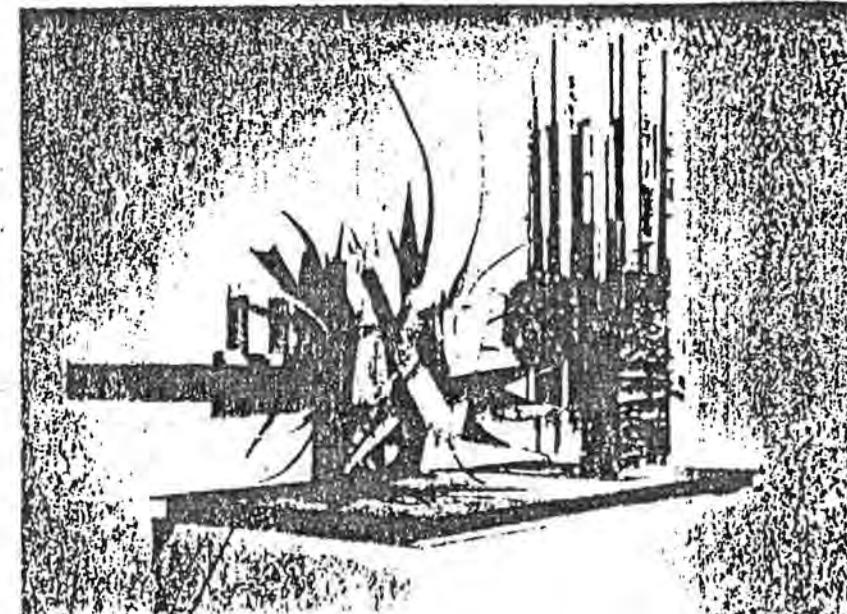
## Halifax City Regional Library Board

# OFFICIAL OPENING

of

## HALIFAX NORTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Monday, October 24, 1966 at 2:30 p.m.



# HALIFAX NORTH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2285 Gottingen Street

## OFFICIAL OPENING

Monday, October 24, 1966, 2:30 p.m.

### PROGRAMME

**Invocation** - Rabbi Joseph Deitcher.

**Chairman's remarks** - Judge Nathan Green, Q.C.,  
Chairman, Halifax City Regional Library  
Board.

**Greetings from Halifax Relief Commission**  
Chairman, Deputy Mayor A. M. Butler.

**Greetings from Federal Representative**  
Mr. Robert McCleave, M.P.

**Greetings from the Province of Nova Scotia**  
The Honourable Donald M. Smith,  
Minister of Mines.

**Address** - The Honourable H. P. MacKeen, C.D., Q.C.,  
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

**Dedication** - Reverend W. P. Oliver, D.C.L.,  
Regional Representative, Adult Education Division

**OFFICIAL OPENING** - Presentation of building to citizens of  
Halifax by His Worship  
Mayor Charles A. Vaughan.

**PRESENTATION OF KEY** - Contractor to Architect to Chair-  
man to Chief Librarian.

**BENEDICTION** - Reverend Gibson Hallam, S.J.,  
Librarian, Saint Mary's University

When the Halifax Memorial Library opened on November 12, 1951, it was known that a branch building in the north end of the city would be required immediately if equitable library service was to be provided. From that time the Library Board has worked indefatigably to obtain this objective.

As a result of the Board's efforts, the interest and financial support of City Council, and the generous gift of \$100,000 from the Halifax Relief Commission it was decided to build the library branch as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Explosion of 1917. Realization of the project came on September 8, 1965, when, as Chairman of the Halifax City Regional Library Board, the late Alderman Abbie Lane turned the sod for this building.

Area: 24,000 sq. ft.

Building costs: \$571,616.00

Furnishing and equipment: \$ 58,653.00

Architect's fees: \$ 40,165.00

Total cost: \$670,434.00

Total book capacity: 63,540 volumes main floor; storage 51,400 volumes.

Population of the City: 92,511 (1961)

Building materials: brick and concrete, red cedar decoration and  
teak wood entrance doors.

Architects: Keith L. Graham & Associates  
J. D. Solomon & Associates Ltd.

General Contractor: Fundy Construction Co., Limited.

### Sculpture by Jordi Bonet

The Sculpture is symbolic of the Halifax Explosion and the City's rebirth after the catastrophe. It is made up of four parts.

Facing the street (west) is the explosion which wrecked Halifax on December 6, 1917, snuffing out 1600 lives and causing hardship and suffering to thousands of citizens.

The north side depicts the human aspect of the tragedy. Polished bronze, strong brass, and battered wood are used. The hant outline of a doll is indicative of the hundreds of children who lost their lives. An authentic piece of the ammunition ship, the Mont Blanc, is seen in the davit at the base. Curved iron strips encircling the shattered bronze symbolize the fraternal embrace of the nation to the stricken city.

On the south side facing the entrance walk, is industry represented by the classical symbol of a wheel, shattered but recognizable. Here also, appears the symbol of life, a flower.

On the east side (facing the building) appears a vertical symmetric and orderly form which depicts the rebirth of the City.

*Council  
Jan 12/84*

Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee - Alderman Doehler

This item was added to the agenda of this meeting at the request of Alderman Doehler.

Correspondence dated January 11, 1984 from the Chairman, Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee, was submitted.

MOVED by Alderman Doehler, seconded by Alderman LeBlanc  
the matter be referred to the next regular meeting of the Committee  
of the Whole Council.

Alderman O'Malley referred to the matter and to Council's recent establishment of a Committee to work with the Bells Committee and advised that a number of points had been raised and have been forwarded to the City Manager for a report. Alderman O'Malley suggested that referral to the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole would give insufficient time to prepare a staff report.

MOVED by Alderman O'Malley, seconded by Alderman Jeffrey  
that this matter be deferred until a complete staff report is submitted  
to a Committee of the Whole Council meeting.

Discussion ensued with respect to the points raised and forwarded to the City Manager and Alderman Flynn requested that a copy of the points be forwarded to Council members, suggesting the City Manager might jot a possible time frame on the requested circulation of material.

Motion passed with Aldermen Dewell and LeBlanc voting against.

*L. O. W.  
Finance Jan 18/84*

Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Committee

An information report dated January 18, 1984 was submitted. The Committee agreed that the above item be deferred to the next regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole Council. —

*Feb 8*

# HALIFAX EXPLOSION MEMORIAL BELLS COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 1267  
Halifax North Postal Strn.  
B3K 5H4  
(902) 421-6730

Honorary Co-Chairmen  
Mr. R.E. Inglis  
Hon. Edmund Morris  
Chairman  
Mr. Reginald A. Prest  
Treasurer  
Mr. Fred R. Nickerson  
Secretary  
Mr. R.H. (Dick) MacLean  
LCdr. Bernard D. Allard  
Mrs. Jean Harrington  
Mr. Frank Harrington  
Mrs. Janet F. Kitz  
Dr. H. Ian MacGregor  
Mr. J. Rod McLeod  
Mr. Bruce Nickerson  
Mr. William B. Orr  
Mr. Harold Shea  
Mr. Terry Sullivan  
Mr. Charles A. Vaughn  
Mr. Roy Wilson



# OFFICIAL

January 11, 1984

His Worship, Mayor Ron Wallace  
1841 Agryle Street  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5

Your Worship:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present our memorial plans for Fort Needham to City Council.

However, it is now urgent that we have a decision regarding the use of land in the Memorial Park. Our architect, Keith Graham, has informed us that he requires instruction to proceed with the final drawings which will take approximately twelve weeks.

After that, it will be necessary to have the specifications written and to call for tenders for construction. There is also considerable lining work to be done by the telephone company and that also requires as much lead time as possible.

We have, at this time, a major fund-raising program ready to start for the funding of the memorial. All of these items now hinge on the decision of Council.

In addition, our agreement with Kaye Grove Memorial Church regarding the rehousing of the bells is for one year only, and our agreement is dated for September 1983.

Therefore, it is imperative that we undertake the required work without delay. Your assistance in bringing this before the members of Council would be very much appreciated.

Yours truly,

*Reg Prest*  
Reg Prest  
Chairman

RECEIVED  
JAN 12 AM  
CITY CLERK  
CITY HALL

2.21 206  
RECEIVED  
By Hand  
JAN 11 1984  
3:45 pm  
MAYOR'S OFFICE



221

TO: P. Calda, P. Eng., City Manager  
FROM: G.I. Blennerhassett, City Clerk  
DATE: December 5, 1983  
SUBJECT: Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells

1. FOLLOW UP  
2. FOLLOW UP  
3. FOLLOW UP  
4. COMPLETION DATE

Please be advised that City Council, at a meeting held on December 1, 1983, approved the following resolution:

"That the matter be referred to City staff for review and Council establish a Committee composed of representatives of City staff from the Engineering and Works Department and the City Manager's Office, and Aldermen O'Malley and Grant for the purpose of providing Council with a report on the feasibility of the proposed memorial."

Alderman Meagher expressed the desire that a report be submitted to a meeting of the Committee of the Whole Council as soon as possible.

G.I. BLENNERHASSETT  
CITY CLERK

/pn

cc: Alderman O'Malley  
Alderman Grant  
P. Connell, Director Eng. & Works  
C. Blakeney, Clerk's Office