



Corporation of the City of St. Catharines
WELLAND CANAL FALLEN WORKERS MEMORIAL TASK FORCE MEETING

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

3pm to 4:30pm

St. Catharines City Hall, 50 Church Street: CR # 1 , Third Floor

MEETING NOTES

Present : Mayor Brian McMullan
Councillor Bruce Williamson
Lisa Bastien, representing Malcolm Allen, MP
Rick Dykstra, MP (by teleconference)
Dave Schulz, Regional & Municipal Affairs Liaison, Rick Dykstra's Office
Regional Councillor Bruce Timms
Mayor Ted Luciani, Thorold
Mayor Vance Badawey, Port Colborne
Mayor Barry Sharpe, Welland
Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Historical Services, City staff
Arden Phair, retired city curator & historian
Patrick Little, lawyer & heritage advocate
Mark Cherney, Business Representative, IBEW Local 303
Gerry Miele, President, CAW Local 4211

Absent: Rebecca Cann, Cultural Planning Supervisor, City staff
Jim Given, Executive VP, Seafarer's International Union

Guests: Grant LaFleche, Reporter, St. Catharines Standard

1. Roundtable introductions

2. Welcome ~ Mayor McMullan

- Thank you to all present for their interest and commitment towards establishing a long overdue memorial to the lives lost during the building of the Welland Canal
- City Council motion passed on May 13th to establish the Task Force
- Regional Council all in support, especially the 4 Welland Canal Mayors in attendance
- Credit to Wendy Metcalfe, Grant LaFleche and Arden Phair for their research and for bringing this to our attention

3. Terms of Reference ~ Kathleen Powell

- See appendix, *Terms of Reference*

Chair of Task Force:

- Mayor initiated task force as a result of City Council motion and has dedicated city resources (staff, meeting space, logistics) toward it
- Rick Dykstra cites that his role as chair could be critical in securing federal funding as it is a complicated joint application process
- Lisa Bastien states that Malcolm Allen has expressed interest in co-chairing as his riding contains the most Welland Canal property

- All dedicate themselves to being available for ongoing commitment of the Task Force meetings
- Mayor proposes a co-chair situation between himself and Rick Dykstra with the provision of further discussion to be held with Mr. Allen with respect to this arrangement
- Task Force concurs

Project Manager:

- Gerry Miele offers to take the role of project manager to keep the task force on a timeline and on task
- Gerry suggests that Sub Committees be formed to work on Site Selection, Design/Form, Funding, Communications and that they meet between Task Force meetings
- Task Force accepts his offer and concurs

4. Historical Review ~ Kathleen Powell

- Canal construction was from Sept 1913 until 1933 with a work suspension in 1917-18 due to WW1
- Originally, 118 deaths were recorded, all by tragic means
- Currently, thanks to Grant's and Arden's research, the count is at 126 deaths
- These deaths have become more poignant due to the personal stories which have been recounted in the Standard recently
- In 1932, the Minister of Railways and Canals acknowledged the loss of life during construction and committed to memorializing these men through a "suitable tablet" or "monument"
- That federal commitment has remained unfulfilled

5. Sites

- Gerry Miele suggests that a number of criteria be established prior to site selection which will aid in that process, i.e. high profile site, accessibility, visibility, location where the most deaths occurred
- Kathleen Powell recommends using criteria within the Ontario Heritage Trust for guidance

Site Sub Committee Membership:

- Bruce Timms, chair
- Mayor Luciani
- Arden Phair
- Rebecca Cann

6. Funding

- Rick Dykstra confirms that the first death occurred on July 23, 1914 and that the application for Legacy Funding must be received by July 23, 2014
- Rick will bring further details on Legacy Funding next mtg

Funding Sub Committee Membership:

- Dave Schulz, chair
- Rick Dykstra
- Mayor Badawey
- Mayor McMullan

- Kathleen Powell
- Mark Cherney

7. Design/Form

- Task Force consensus that whatever form is pursued, the memorial must contain all the known names of those that died during canal construction
- Bruce Williamson suggests that the memorial design be in keeping with the 1930's era
- Gerry Miele suggests incorporating original construction materials into the design
- Members cite examples of a one site memorial along with a complimentary continuum of designated stops along the canal with interpretive and interactive features bookmarking to the main site
- Kathleen Powell notes that when the RFP is issued, the call to artists must contain the criteria decided on by the Task Force

Design Sub Committee Membership:

- Arden Phair, chair
- Malcolm Allen
- Bruce Williamson
- Mark Cherney
- Rebecca Cann

Other business:

8. Communication

Communications Strategy Sub Committee

- There is a need to have a communications team which will develop a strategy to keep the public informed of the task force's progress and heighten awareness for future fundraising efforts
- Karen Moncur (Rick Dykstra's Office), chair
- Lisa Bastien (Malcolm Allen's Office)
- Maggie Riopelle (Mayor McMullan's Office)

Interactive Communication Sub Committee

- There is also a need to establish a team who has the technical expertise to develop an interactive (social media) component for the memorial
- Kathleen Powell, chair
- City and Region IT staff
- Suggestion to include Jeff Cheseborough, Innovate Niagara

9. Information collection

- Currently, the public can access the St. Catharines Standard *Ebook* on their website for all the articles relating to the Welland Canal Fallen Workers
- Research is ongoing between Arden, Grant LaFleche and Kathleen whereby resources are being shared between the Standard and the City
- Malcolm Allen's office has petitioned residents and is collecting resources offered by those residents relating to the canal construction and the loss of life
- See appendix 1, *List of Workers Memorials in Canada*, supplied by Malcolm Allen's Office

Next steps

- All Sub Committees to meet prior to the next meeting
- Brainstorming encouraged!

Next meeting ~ Monday June 17, 2013, 3-4:30pm, Committee Room 1



Terms of Reference Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force

Purpose: The Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force has been established to develop and implement a suitable memorial to recognize workers who were killed while building the Welland Ship Canal.

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. To investigate options and carry out all work necessary to erect a suitable memorial to fallen workers from the building of the Welland Ship Canal.
2. To investigate and choose a site to erect a memorial to fallen workers from the building of the Welland Ship Canal.
3. To search out and secure adequate funding to carry out this project.
4. To carry out research to ensure all fallen workers from the building of the Welland Ship Canal have been recognized.
5. To communicate and engage the public regarding the importance of this project
6. To investigate on-going opportunities to continue to share the stories of the fallen workers in relevant ways throughout the communities.

Term: The Committee will exist until the project has been completed.

Meeting Schedule: As required to complete committee and sub-committee work.

Composition: The Committee will have representation from: the City of St. Catharines, City of Port Colborne, City of Welland, Town of Thorold, Region of Niagara, Members of Parliament – Rick Dykstra and Malcolm Allen, the St. Lawrence Seaway, Seafarer's International Union, CAW Local 4211, IBEW Local 303, and the community at large. The St. Catharines Standard is represented as a guest on this committee.

City Representation: The City of St. Catharines and the Region of Niagara have agreed to committee staff resources to this project, including the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre and the St. Catharines Public Art Advisory Committee.

Federal Representation: The offices of Rick Dykstra and Malcolm Allen have both committed staff members to the Task Force as required

Agenda/Minutes: City staff to provide minutes and coordinate agenda setting with Chair(s)

Workers Memorials in Canada

May 2013 Office of Malcolm Allen

Appendix 1

May 28, 2013

Memorial	Place	Description	Link
Memorial to Commemorate the Chinese Railroad Workers in Canada	Toronto: intersection of Blue Jays Way + Navy Wart Ct.	-monument erected to remember over four thousand Chinese workers who lost their lives during the construction of the railroad between 1880-1885	http://spacing.ca/toronto/2009/04/09/memorial-to-commemorate-the-chinese-railroad-workers-in-canada/
"Reflection"-monument to Canadian Aid Workers	Ottawa: Rideau Falls Park	-honours Canada's commitment to international development + those who have risked their lives or died in the line of duty -specifically dedicated to Nancy Malloy + Tim Stone	http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/places-to-visit/public-art/reflection-monument-to-canadian-aid-workers
Canadian Chinese Monument	Chinatown, Vancouver	-honours Chinese workers who lost their lives building the railway + Chinese soldiers who fought in World War II -celebration of multiculturalism	http://www.venturevancouver.com/canadian-chinese-monument
Fallen Firefighters Memorial	B.C legislature	- honours firefighters in B.C who have died because of illness or injury related to their work	http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/new-bronze-statue-at-b-c-legislature-will-commemorate-fallen-firefighters-1.73903
Firehall No. 6 + Firefighter's Memorial	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: Firefighters memorial park	-built in 1990 on the 10 year anniversary of a fire which killed two firefighters	http://wikimapia.org/1537369/Firehall-No-6-and-Firefighter-s-Memorial
Hoggs Hollow Memorial	Toronto: Young St. Subway Line	-built to preserve the legacy of 5 Italian workers who died in the Hoggs Hollow disaster in 1960 - quilt designed by local artists	http://www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning/hoggshallow.html
Falconbridge Mural	Sudbury, Ontario	-mural in memory of the 85 miners killed in 1929 at the Falconbridge mine	http://www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning/falconbridge.html
Kirkland Lake Miner's Memorial	Kirkland Lake, Ontario	-honours the miners who have died at Kirkland Lake -includes an inscription about their influence over worker's rights today	http://www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning/kirklandlake.html
Rideau Canal Fabric Mural Memorial	Kingston, Ontario: Hotel Dieu Hospital	-mural dedicated to hundreds of Irish immigrant workers who lost their lives building the Rideau Canal from 1826-1832	http://www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning/rideaucanal.html
Farm Workers' Monument	Abbotsford, B.C: Mill Lake Park	-monument dedicated to three farm workers killed in a van accident in 2007	http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/Monument+will+honour+Abbotsford+farm+workers+killed+2007+accident/8076924/story.html

The "Day of Mourning" workers monument	Saint John, New Brunswick: W. Franklin Hatheway labour Exhibit Centre	-in remembrance of workers who were killed or injured at work -brings attention to unsafe working conditions + the extraordinary physical labour that went into the building of Saint John	http://www.bacweb.org/canada/news/2011_02/canada.php
Lifequilt	Toronto, Ontario	-honours the lives of workers aged 15-25 who have been killed or injured on the job	http://www.youngworkerquilt.ca/
Cult Italian Workers Memorial	Vaughan, Ontario: Woodbridge Pool and memorial Arena	-dedicated to all Canadian workers of Italian descent who perished or were injured in work related accidents	http://www.ninorico.com/index_files/Page2634.htm
Forest Workers Memorial Park Fountain	Lake Cowichan, BC	-dedicated to all forest workers in Lake Cowichan who lost their lives or were injured on the job	http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM3Y5Q_Forest_Workers_Memorial_Park_Fountain_Lake_Cowichan_BC