



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

Tuesday Jan 14, 2014

3pm to 4pm

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

MEETING NOTES

Present: Mayor Brian McMullan
Malcolm Allen, MP
Rick Dykstra, MP (conference call)
Rob D'Amboise, Rick Dykstra's Office (conference call)
Mike Ramnannan, Rick Dykstra's Office (conference call)
Dave Schulz, Regional & Municipal Affairs Liaison, Rick Dykstra's Office
Bruce Timms, Niagara Regional Councillor
Maggie Riopelle, EA Mayor McMullan
Kathleen Powell, Supervisor of Historical Services, City staff
Rebecca Cann, Cultural Supervisor, City staff
Sheri Laekeman, President, UNIFOR 4212
Arden Phair, retired city curator & historian
Patrick Little, Lawyer & heritage advocate
Chris Grawey, IBEW 303
Gary Miele, President Unifor 4211

Guest: Bob Sears, Canadian Canal Society

Regrets: Mayor Barry Sharpe, Welland
Mayor Ted Luciani, Thorold
Mayor Badawey, Port Colborne
Councillor Bruce Timms
Councillor Bruce Williamson
Karen Moncur, Rick Dykstra's Office
Lisa Bastien, Malcolm Allen
Jeff Burch, Executive Director, Folk Arts Council
John Armstrong, Welland Canal Foundation
Jim Given, Executive VP, Seafarer's International Union
Mark Cherney, Business Representative, IBEW Local 303

Welcome ~ Dave Schulz

Introductions

Review of Dec 19 meeting notes

- All in favour
- Carried

1. Fundraising Committee update ~ Dave Schulz and Rob D'Amboise

- \$2,000 received from Welland, for Call for Design phase

Action item, Rebecca Cann

- *Draft a letter to each canal corridor municipality with a request for \$2,000 contribution for design phase along with any expectations for future financial contributions*

Action item, Kathleen Powell

- *Follow up with St Catharines Standard for in kind donation, printing*

Action item, Rebecca Cann

- *Research provincial funding opportunities*

Action item, Dave Schulz and Kathleen Powell

- *Meet and discuss Job Creation program application wrt Folk Arts as the applicant*

2. Design Committee update ~ Rebecca Cann

- 145 plan takers and 9 submissions so far
- Deadline for EOI is Jan 15
- Design Selection Panel will meet at end of January
- Original release date of Feb 12 for the Call for Design may be delayed due to site selection process
- The DCH grant ap can be amended wrt site; original submission named Museum @ Lock 3

3. Communications Committee update~ Maggie Riopelle

- No update

4. Site Selection Committee update~ Bruce Timms

- Sub Committee lists amended preference for sites as follows:
 1. Seaway parkway lawns site (owned by Fed Gov't, managed by Seaway)
 2. Seaway container site, north end of Lock 3 (owned by Fed Gov't, managed by Seaway)
 3. Tree lined site with playground, Lock 3 (currently City leased)
 4. Internal site bordered by Museum and viewing platform, Lock 3 (currently City leased)
- Discussion on complications of the Seaway lease expiry in 2018 (sites 1 & 2), Seaway management resistance, traffic concerns, ongoing maintenance costs, site prominence and additional funding required for infrastructure (parking, lighting, grading)
- Greater Niagara Circle Route could be a potential source of funding for infrastructure requirements as grant money cannot be used for this purpose

Action, Rebecca Cann

- *Rebecca to attend the Greater Niagara Circle Route and inform the Committee on the Welland Canal Fallen Workers Task Force and the progress of the project*
- *This will introduce the capital ask (for any infrastructure funds required) to the Region*
- *Prepare briefing notes for Rick Dykstra and Mayor on sites prioritized by Site sub committee*

Action, Rick Dykstra and Mayor McMullan

- *Contact President of the Seaway independently to discuss establishing the memorial on the Seaway Parkway lawns site or secondly, Seaway container site, north end of Lock 3*

5. Research and Interpretation Committee update~ Kathleen Powell

- 2 more names added to the 126 workers known to have been killed
- Each fallen worker is being researched more thoroughly
- See Appendix, "Dugan, Manus", article written by Kelly Monitz

Adjourned: 4pm

Next meeting: February (to be determined)

3pm to 4:30pm

Committee Room 1,

St. Catharines City Hall



Construction of Lock 7 the Welland Ship Canal in Ontario, Canada, is shown in 1927. A Hazleton man was among 126 workers who died during the project.

A death in 1924 ... a mystery today

A Hazleton man was among 126 workers who were killed in the 18 years of building the Welland Ship Canal in Canada. But his true identity remains unknown to those now planning a memorial to honor the victims.

By KELLY MONITZ
Staff Writer

One hundred twenty-six men gave their lives building the Welland Ship Canal in Ontario, Canada, from 1914 to 1932.

A Hazleton man was among them.

Manus Dugan died on July 3, 1924 — hours after he arrived in St. Catharines and began working as a laborer. He plunged some 30 feet to the bottom of one of the canal locks when a derrick car went over the edge.

Another man jumped clear when he heard the warning call, but the 48-year-old Dugan either didn't hear or react quick enough.

His mangled, broken body was retrieved from the bottom of the lock and returned to Hazleton for burial.

Little else is known about Dugan, who presents quite a mystery to historians researching both the deaths and lives of these lost workers for a memorial paying tribute to their sacrifice nearly 100 years after work began on the canal.

Dugan was identified as John Boyle in newspaper accounts of the tragic accident and even in a death notice before a coroner's inquest days later when the name Dugan first appeared.

"Was there confusion in the workplace and no one really knew who this new fatality was? Did he have a note in his pocket from a



Shovels move dirt at an early stage of the construction near Thorold, Ontario.

B. FOSTER

friend named John Boyle which the coroner then assumed was his identity?" asked Arden Phair, retired curator of St. Catharines Museum, who serves on the memorial task force.

"It is all very much speculative and conjecture, and we have been trying to piece together the true story of this man," he wrote in an email.

Phair hopes that Dugan still has family in the Hazleton or Freeland areas, and they can fill in the missing details, provide a photograph and solve this mystery.

On his quest, Phair reached out to John Probert, who heads the Hazleton Cemetery Association, hoping to find his final resting place was in the Vine Street Cemetery and if there was any other

information from local newspapers or family on the man.

Probert checked his records, but didn't find a Manus Dugan. He then contacted St. Gabriel's Church, an Irish parish, thinking he may have belonged there given his Irish heritage, he said. Both of his parents, Patrick Dugan and Anne Gallagher, were born in Ireland, according to his death certificate.

Phair and other historical sleuths also turned up an address on Hazleton's south side, which is the same neighborhood as the church and Boyle Funeral Home, Probert said.

So, when the church didn't have a record for Dugan, he turned to the funeral home, whose owner at the time was John Boyle — the same name

that Dugan had been identified as in the newspaper. The funeral home did handle the burial service, Probert said, and he learned that Dugan had been buried in St. Ann's Cemetery in Freeland.

Probert walked the cemetery with a friend but couldn't find Dugan's grave, he said. Another funeral director, Stanley Wilczek, who has records for the cemetery, offered to show him where the Dugan plots are and they hope to find a stone marking his grave, Probert said.

They don't know if he was buried in a family plot or another relative's, given his sudden death at a young age, Probert said. A stone may not even mark his grave, he said.

Probert also checked newspaper archives at the local library for a story on

the accident or an obituary, but July 1924 is one of the gaps in the collection, he said.

Probert thinks the newspaper or the coroner in Canada made a mistake in the identification, possibly mixing up the name of the funeral director with the canal's 61st causality.

"It's possible that John Boyle at the time knew Dugan," Probert said.

Phair, though, wonders if Dugan had a piece of paper on him with the Boyle name, which led to the misidentification, or if he had been traveling with a John Boyle and someone mixed up the two names. Or, was Dugan using an alias, or did the construction company just not know the name of this new worker, he asked.

At first, Phair and others thought they had two

fatalities on the same day, but then realized that Boyle and Dugan were one in the same, he said.

"That's where I was hoping that someone would recognize the name and provide us with information," Phair said.

The memorial task force continues to research all of those who lost their lives, seeking proper spellings of names, nationality, age, circumstances of death, and next of kin to interview or get photographs. No information exists on at least a dozen of these workers, Phair said.

"For these dozen individuals, their loved ones never knew what happened," he said, adding that it's profoundly sad that many will remain faceless with no photographs or placeless with no grave markers. "It could be the case with Manus."

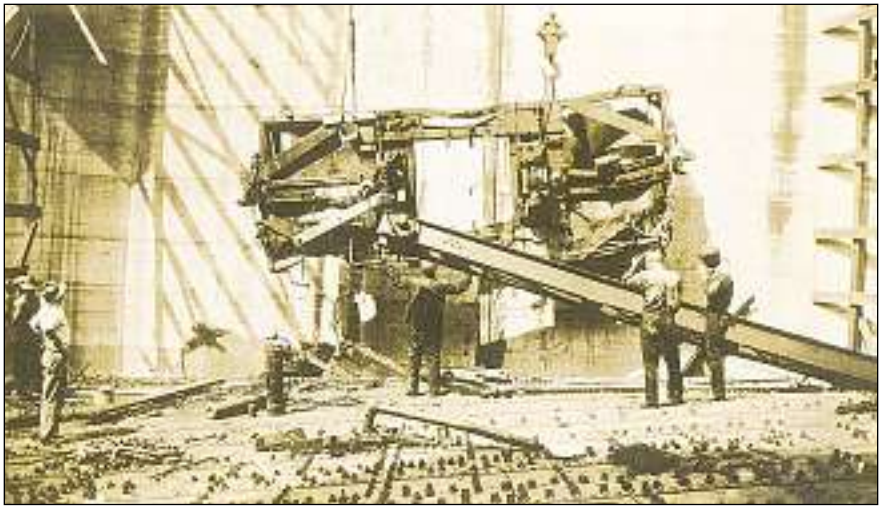
But Phair has faith that someone will remember him.

"When we started this project with a public petition, we knew of only two families of the deceased," he said. "Petition responses were then received from over 80 people that they were related to the dead and that something should be done to honor their ancestors."

The task force hopes to unveil the memorial in 2015.

Anyone with information on Manus Dugan should contact Probert at 570-454-3669.

kmonitz@standardspeaker.com



Ten men were killed on Aug. 2, 1928, at Thorold, Ontario, when a crane fell into Lock 6 and onto a gate being worked on below.



D. FERGUSON