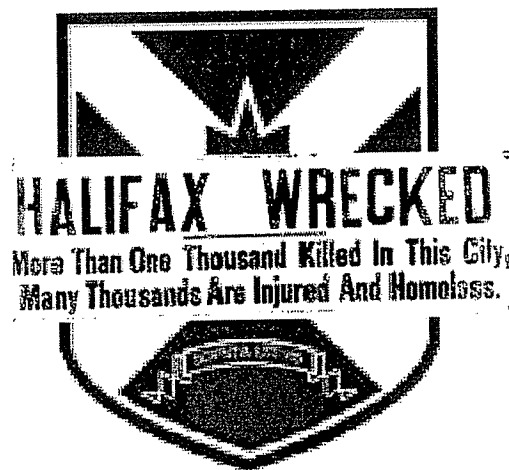


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HALIFAX WRECKED

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

Halifax Explosion Conference
Prince Andrew High School
March 4th 2005

Halifax Explosion Conference
Prince Andrew High School
March 4th, 2005

Committee:

Honorary Chairperson: Mrs. Janet Kitz
Chairperson: Craig Jennex
Assistant Chairperson: Elspeth Hennigar
Presenters/Research Advisor: Mr. Jim Simpson
Administrator: Mr. Greg King
Public Relations: Danielle Currie/Kelly McKeage
Logistics: Erin Cramm/Lindsay Tufts
VIP/Luncheon and Entertainment: Ryan Baker/Joe Hickes
Seniors Liaison/Displays: Jessica Benavides/Jenny Vincent-Sullivan
Mock Trial: Emily Wheeler et al (LAW 12 students)-Advisor Mrs. A. D'Alessio

Presenters:

Welcome: Craig Jennex and Mayor Peter Kelly
Keynote: Mrs. Janet Kitz
Workshops: Concurrent and repeating –3 in the am and 3 in the pm
Mr. Dan Conlin, Curator of Marine History Maritime Museum of the Atlantic
Mr. Garry Shutlak, Senior Archivist of Public Archives of Nova Scotia
Mrs. Janet Kitz, Halifax Explosion Historian
Mr. Gordan Fader, Marine Geologist
Mr. Alan Ruffman, Marine Geophysicist
Prof. Don Chard, Professor of History at Saint Mary's University
Mr. Jim Simpson, Halifax Explosion Researcher/Biologist

Proposed Conference Agenda:

8:30 – Registration *PAHS Arts Center- south entrance*
9:00 – Welcome, Chair and Mayor Peter Kelly
9:10 – Keynote Speech, Halifax Explosion- Overview by Mrs. Janet Kitz
Mock trial is held in AV room
9:45 – The Trial (Part One)
Workshops are held in Library, Room 207, AV Room, TBA
10:00 – Workshop Session 1-Group Imo
10:35 – Workshop Session 2-Group Mont Blanc
11:10 – Workshop Session 3-Group Boston
12:00 – Luncheon for Survivors, Presenters and Committee- *Library*
1:00 – Workshop Session 4
1:35 – Workshop Session 5
2:10 – Workshop Session 6
2:40 – Break
2:50 – The Trial (Part Two))-AV Room
3:20 – Dr. Colin Dodds, President of Saint Mary's University
3:30 – Mr.Greg King, Craig Jennex (Closing Remarks: Conference 2006, Expo 2005, website)

Halifax Explosion Conference
March 4th 2005
Prince Andrew High School

Press Announcement:

Building on a symposium Saint Mary's University held over a decade ago, the senior history students at Prince Andrew High School are proud to announce that on Friday March 4th, we will be holding the very first ever, national conference on the Halifax Explosion. This conference is completely organized and ran by Prince Andrew High School students.

With the support of Prince Andrew High School, the Social Studies Department of Saint Mary's University and the office of the Mayor, we are ecstatic to announce that our daylong conference will involve workshops with leading researchers and presenters and feature a keynote audio-visual presentation by world-renowned author, Janet Kitz.

Those in attendance will include interested members of the public, history students of Prince Andrew High and leading history students and staff of all other HRM high schools. We will also be honouring survivors of the explosion and their families, at a special luncheon. The conference, to be held at Prince Andrew High School, includes six workshop sessions, a keynote presentation, displays and insight into the latest research and publications. The theme for the conference is "What's Old, what's new, what's next."

We are also proud to announce that at this conference will be re-enactment of some testimony from the trial and inquiry of 1918/1919 between the Imo and the Mount Blanc.

This re-enactment will include key testimony of the Mont Blanc Captain and the Harbour Pilots, and the final decision of the court. Research for this project has been taking place using the actual transcript, of which only two known copies exist.

This conference will take place with no cost to those in attendance.

Councillor Bill Karsten would now like to say a few words as a representative of the city...

Saint Mary's University would now like to say a few words...

I would now like to open up the floor for a question and answer period.

Gordon Fader

Gordon Fader is an Emeritus Marine Geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic), at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, where he had been employed for the past 35 years. He retired in 2004. His education was undertaken at St. Mary's, Dalhousie and the Technical University of Nova Scotia. He was the first Graduate in Geology from St. Mary's University, graduating in 1969, and an award has been established in his name. He has been responsible for mapping and research on the surficial sediments and shallow bedrock geology of the southeast Canadian Continental Shelf, and has published over 270 maps, reports and scientific papers in government publications and the scientific literature. Additionally, he has conducted over 70 research ship and submersible cruises as chief scientist and participated on another 30 on the marine geology of southeastern Canada.

He has been involved in most major offshore projects off eastern Canada, including, Hibernia Oil Development, Scotian Shelf Gas Development, Confederation Bridge construction, Swissair 111 crash investigation and many telecommunication, gas pipeline and electrical transmission route studies. He is a specialist in the acquisition and interpretation of high-resolution seismic reflection and sidescan sonar data, and the study of seabed processes and sediment characteristics. He was a member of the Halifax Harbour Task Force that prepared a blueprint document for the Cleanup of Halifax Harbour and received both Community Planning and Department of Natural Resources Canada Merit Awards for his research. He also was a member of the Harbour Solutions Advisory Committee that prepared the most recent plans for cleanup of the Harbour. During the 1990s he was a member of ICES, International Centre for Exploration of the Seas, Working Group on the Effects of Extraction of Minerals from the Seabed, as the Canadian Representative to this international body on marine mining and habitat mapping. Presently he is completing a study of the geology of Halifax Harbour; advising the Federal Government on a marine mining policy; studying the Quaternary geology of the southeast Atlantic Continental Shelf, and assessing the effects of fishing activity and essential fish habitat with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

He is a popular speaker in high demand in Atlantic Canada from a wide variety of university, school and other private and public institutions, particularly concerned with the environmental assessment of marine related projects and geoscience aspects of the seabed and has presented over 800 talks and lectures during his career. He has twice been profiled in the "Canadian Geographical Journal", interviewed on the CBC broadcast "Morningside" and recently featured in industry film productions on the Halifax Explosion, the discovery of shipwrecks and the Oak Island Mystery. He also consulted on locations and set design for the recent movie "Titanic" and starred as an extra.

Jim Simpson

Jim Simpson first started working on the Halifax Explosion in 1993. He was brought into the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic as an assistant researcher by Janet Kitz and David Flemming. He is also an assistant researcher at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History. Jim's main goal is to do field biology in the north end of Halifax, looking for explosion ruin sites and old foundations. In 1993 he started to help out with the December 6th ceremonies at Fort Needham in north end Halifax. From 1994 to 1996 he taught young children about the Halifax Explosion at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. In 1995 he started an annual harbor boat tour for survivors of the Explosion. This is a great opportunity for the remaining survivors to get together and support each other. In 1997 Jim started doing walking tours of north end Halifax, showing participants where their loved ones could have been living when the explosion occurred. He has been doing field work with Dan Conlin of the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, looking for foundations of homes and other land marks that were destroyed in the Explosion. Jim was featured in a CBC documentary on the Halifax Explosion, and also made appearances in news reels for CTV National News and for ABC World News. He was successful at getting a plaque erected on Veeth Street where a large number of children died in the basement of an orphanage when the Explosion hit. He started to do some work at Prince Andrew High School last year.

Garry D. Shutlak

As an archivist with thirty-five years of experience working at the Public Archives I have been fielding questions regarding the Explosion since 1970. Most of my experience has been assisting students and academics and stake holders interested in the subject, from Graham Metson and Janet Kitz to David Flemming. I have also collected, sorted and arranged photographic collections, architectural drawings and maps relating to the disaster as a manuscript, map/architecture and graphic materials archivist.

My first direct involvement with the subject was in 1992 when Philip Harling, Margaret Campbell and I produced the Exhibition, a Vision of Regeneration: Reconstruction after the Halifax Explosion, 1917-1921 which ran from November 13, 1992 to August 31, 1993 mounted in the Chase Exhibition Room at NSARM. A catalogue was of the exhibit was produced for which I wrote the background paper. I was then asked by Alan Ruffman and Colin Howel to speak at the 75th Anniversary Conference where I gave a lecture on the rebuilding of Halifax and Dartmouth with the exception of the Hydrostone district. Mr. Ernie Forbes wrote exclusively about that area. I condensed and rewrote my lecture which was published in GROUND ZERO: A Reassessment of the 1917 Explosion in Halifax Harbour. In 1992, I wrote Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada regarding designation of the Richmond District as a National Historic Site. The district was considered to large and

Janet Kitz

Janet F. Kitz, the author of several books on the Halifax Explosion was born in Scotland and studied the Halifax Explosion for more than 20 years. In so doing she became a notable local author and broadcaster receiving an honorary doctorate of letters for her extensive work. She is a former Saint Mary's student, graduating with a degree in anthropology. She has provided archival and academic research for over 20 years on the Halifax Explosion, contributing greatly to the Atlantic Canada Studies Program and Gorsebrook Research Institute at Saint Mary's. One of her most well known publications, Shattered City: The Halifax Explosion and the Road to Recovery, was published in 1989. The book combined a range of new research and many in depth interviews with survivors.

Joan Payzant

Historian and writer Joan Payzant has written numerous books revolving around the history of Halifax and Nova Scotia. Included in her literary achievements are non-fiction and fiction for children. Joan was born in Dartmouth and as she grew up she heard many stories regarding the Halifax Explosion. These stories sparked her interest in the event and is featured in her book Who's a Scaredy-cat!

"... I knew from having been a school librarian that it would be popular at the annual anniversary of the terrible Halifax disaster of 1917," says Payzant. "Finally, when the 75th anniversary was about to be celebrated, I decided, like the little red hen, that I would publish it myself, even though I am still of the opinion that this is a very conceited way to go."

Her enthusiasm and drive for the project caused a wonderful novel for school-age children everywhere to enjoy and learn about the Halifax Explosion. She received a BSc and DipEd from Dalhousie University and has written numerous articles and books mostly based on Halifax and Dartmouth history.

Alan Ruffman

Alan Ruffman is the President and Director of the Geomarine Associates Limited. This group is a Halifax-based geoscience consulting firm. Professor Ruffman has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto, a Masters Degree in Marine Geophysics from Dalhousie University and a Ph. D. also from Dalhousie University. Prof. Ruffman was the Senior Co-editor of *Ground Zero: A Reassessment of the 1917 Explosion in Halifax Harbour, Canada's Most Tragic Disaster*. Adding to this, Prof. Ruffman is a very accomplished author with over ten publications to his name. He remains one of the leading researchers in terms of the Halifax explosion.

the board opted to designate and plaque the Hydrostone District which took place April 25, 2000. In 2004, Jim Simpson asked me to help him with his Explosion tours arranged through the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. My talk on the history of Mulgrave Park is a direct result of Jim's request.

Dan Conlin

Dan Conlin is a Marine historian and researcher. His is also a believer in public history and exploring and communicating historical themes to a wide public audience. This comes in part from his background in journalism. Many publications regarding Nova Scotian history and the Halifax Explosion have been written by Mr. Conlin.

Don Chard:

Don Chard is a professor of History at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. Through his interest in the Halifax Explosion he has had many guest speakers and even invited students from Prince Andrew High School speak to his classes. Mr. Chard is also involved in getting a partnership on the Halifax Explosion between Prince Andrew and Saint Mary's University.