

**HALIFAX**

# **Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**By Municipal Archives  
Corporate Information Management**

**Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Advisory  
Committee**

January 14, 2015

# Archival Sources

- Nova Scotia Archives and the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic are the primary research centres for the Halifax Explosion
  - Vast holdings, expertise and online resources:
    - [Halifax Explosion 1917 Online Resources](#)  
[+ more information](#)
    - [Halifax Explosion Remembrance Book](#)  
[+ more information](#)
    - [Halifax Explosion: 'A Vision of Regeneration'](#)  
[+ more information](#)
    - [The Way We Were: Nova Scotia in Film, 1917-1957](#)  
[+ more information](#)
    - [Halifax Wrecked: the Halifax Explosion](#)

# Additional Archival Sources

- CBC Archives
- Dartmouth Heritage Museum
- Halifax North Memorial Library
- HRM Municipal Archives
- Library and Archives Canada
- St. Paul's Church Archives
- State Library of Massachusetts
- Others...

# Past Commemorations

- HRM Archives has sources on past anniversary events (50<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 85<sup>th</sup>), as well as the annual Memorial Service and discussions around the building of the Fort Needham Memorial Bell Tower, Fire Station 4, Pinehill Park Memorial in North Dartmouth.

# Explosion Sources at HRM Archives - Highlights

- On-line exhibit of excerpts from Council minutes from first 3 months after Explosion: <http://www.halifax.ca/archives/HalifaxExplosionCouncilMinuteExcerpts.php>
- Online exhibit of First Anniversary gratitude to Boston and Massachusetts: <http://www.halifax.ca/archives/HalifaxThanksBostonforExplosionRelief1918.php>
- City Engineer's maps and plans e.g.:
  - Layout of emergency shelters
  - Repairs to signal boxes damaged in Explosion
  - Halifax Relief Commission plans
- Town Planning Board records (interaction with Relief Commission)
- [Board of School Commissioners records](#)
- Fire Department and Board of Firewards records
- Deputy Mayor [Henry S. Colwell fonds](#)
- Committee and dept. records (e.g.. Public Gardens, City Home, Cemetery, Board of Health, Assessment Office, City Works)

# HRM Archives Initiative for the Anniversary...

- A focus of projects/funding now through Dec 2017 will be to:
  - a) Sift through and better understand what is available in HRM Archives through project funding, as available.
  - b) Publish on-line exhibits in advance of each anniversary 2015, 2016, leading up to a cumulative special virtual exhibit in 2017.
  - c) Provide access to source material.

# An Idea .. And an invitation

- The Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion has and will capture the imagination not just of Halifax but of the country and the world.
- That the Mayor, Council and Anniversary Committee send out an open invitation to any and all to:
  - Initiate projects, programs, and commemorative activities to honour the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Halifax Explosion in 2017.
  - HRM will create and manage a central list-serve of projects with a short description as a central reference location.
  - Extend the invitation and “let the energy & ideas take form”...

# Next Steps...

- Does the idea resonate?...
- If so, staff would draft the wording of the invitation...
- A recommendation to Community Planning & Economic Development to have the Mayor and Council extend the invitation.