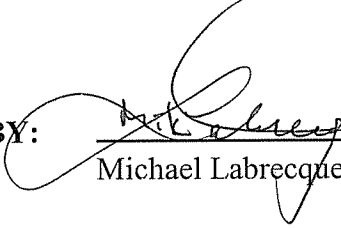

Halifax Regional Council
October 15, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Michael Labrecque, Director Real Property Services

DATE: October 9, 2002

SUBJECT: Memorial Tower Restoration - Sir Sanford Fleming Park

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the September 10, 2002, session of Regional Council, Councillor Mosher requested an update on the restoration of the Memorial Tower at Sir Sanford Fleming Park.

BACKGROUND

In May of 1998 a piece of fallen stone on the west elevation of the Memorial Tower required that staff erect fencing around the base of the tower to protect the public from injury. On April 8, 1998, staff presented an information report to Regional Council and received approval to proceed immediately with investigations into the conditions of the tower. In April of 1998 structural engineers were engaged in response to an RFP for consulting services and a condition assessment and tender for restoration were produced. On June 30, 1998, Regional Council approved the allocation of \$135,000 to be transferred from other Capital projects to fund the first phase of the renovations.

A tender for a four phase restoration program was issued and the first phase was awarded to Coastal Masonry Restoration by Regional Council on September 22, 1998. The tender noted that subsequent phases would be awarded to Coastal Masonry and Restoration as funds were available based on the

Phase II of the work was awarded to Coastal Masonry and Restoration by Regional Council on April 6, 1999. Funding was not available in the 1999/2000 capital budget so Phase III was not awarded until 2001 when funds were available in the 2000/2001 Capital Budget.

On November 6, 2001, Councillor Mosher requested information from staff on the process for designating Sir Sanford Fleming Park and the Memorial Tower as a National Historic Site. On January 29, 2002, staff responded with an Information Report and Regional Council approved submission of nomination papers to the Federal Government for consideration of the Sir Sanford Fleming Park as a National Historic Site designation and directed staff to undertake an independent research report for Sir Sanford Fleming Park as part of the requirements of that submission. An RFP for a research report was issued. The successful proponent of the proposal was Dr. Brian Cuthbertson and his report is Attachment 1 of this report.

DISCUSSION

The assessment of the Memorial Tower carried out in 1998 by O'Halloran Campbell Consultants Limited identified that deterioration of the granite and ironstone wall construction of the tower had progressed to such a point that the long term structural integrity of the building was at risk. Based on the recommendations of their assessment a four phase program of restoration was advanced. This exterior restoration involved grinding out all of the failed masonry joints, repointing the joints and injecting grout into sections of the interior on the wall and repairing the bars and sills of the windows. Interior restoration involved similar work to the walls but also included sandblasting and painting the wrought iron and steel staircases as well as cleaning and protecting the steel floor structure.

The first year's program saw the restoration of the main entry (east) elevation of the tower as well as restoration of the four interior elevations and stairs, allowing the tower to be safely opened for the public again. The remaining unrestored sides of the tower were closed off to the public by chain link fencing. The two subsequent phases of the work saw the renovations to the two adjacent faces of the tower (north and south elevations). As work was completed on each elevation, the protective fencing has been removed, expanding the area of public access to the tower. The west exterior elevation remains to be restored in an upcoming year, pending Council approval of the required funds. Currently there is approximately \$21,000 remaining in capital account CBR00439 with \$275,000 having been spent to date on the restoration projects. Approximately another \$60,000 to \$70,000 of additional funding is required to complete the final phase of the work. This work must take place in the near future to guarantee that funds spent on previous work are not lost due to water penetration.

With the completion of the final phase the tower will then be stabilized and a program of restoration of the various memorial plaques inside the building could begin. The condition of those stone and metal plaques has deteriorated over time as a result of the water penetration through the failed walls. Designation of the park as an national historic monument may assist in securing cost sharing for that restoration project.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved operating, capital and reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of capital and operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

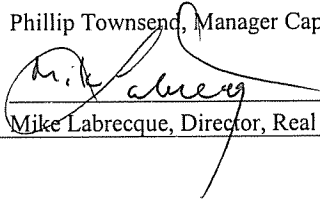
ATTACHMENTS

'History of the Erection of the Memorial Tower in Sir Sanford Fleming Park' as prepared by Dr. Brian Cuthbertson.

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Phillip Townsend, Manager Capital Projects, Real Property Services, 490-7166

Report Approved by:


Mike Labrecque, Director, Real Property Services 490-4851

HISTORY OF THE ERECTION OF THE MEMORIAL TOWER IN SIR SANFORD FLEMING PARK

Sanford Fleming's Offer

Attracted by the beauty of the North West Arm, Fleming accumulated from 1868 nearly 100 acres of land on the western side of the North West Arm and north of the War Department property of Melville Island military prison. His most costly purchase was 50 acres near the “narrows”, where the distance is only 600 feet shore to shore across the Arm, and where today stands the Memorial Tower. Fleming thus succeeded in bringing together all his lands into one block, embracing Dingle Lake, Daisy Cove and the Narrows with a water frontage of nearly a mile. Over the years he spent thousands of dollars removing unsightly obstacles, building summer and winter roads, laying water pipes for a water supply, wharf building and other improvements.¹ He had erected two summer houses on the heights opposite Birchdale (on eastern Arm shore) and they were visited by many picnickers. One of the houses was known as the Dingle and this name given to the property as whole. Both houses, however, were destroyed; one by fire and the other by a gale.² Although many were desirous of obtaining portions of the property for residential purposes, but Fleming refused to sell, though the value for the whole property was estimated at as much as \$50,000.

From the beginning the public had the “freest access” to the Dingle, “landing

¹ *Morning Chronicle*, 14 April 1908. See also *Letter to His Honour the Lieut-Governor: Nova Scotia and the Empire with other papers*, section III, A North West Arm Park (Halifax, August 19th, 1908), p. 16.

² *The Halifax Herald*, 15 April 1908. The article was entitled “Sir Sanford Fleming’s Regal Gift to the People of Halifax City: The Beauty Spot of the North West Arm is an Inheritance for Which all Halifax is Grateful. It Means Much to the People of the City, Especially Those of Moderate Means”. It referred to Fleming offer of the property and city council’s acceptance.

and going where they pleased and doing pretty much as they pleased”.³ For Fleming “it was a matter of great pleasure to him to see many of the citizens of Halifax innocently and healthfully enjoying themselves on his property”.⁴ As the Arm became increasingly popular as a summer resort, family parties would spend all day on the Dingle grounds. Children by the score might be seen playing about on the beaches. For Fleming, however, a limit was reached when “rowdies” started coming with kegs of beer and taking possession of spots from where they abused passers-by. On Sundays, baseball games were played on a field near the cove and there was much resulting disorder. On occasion Fleming’s own family were obliged to leave the grounds. In 1900, Fleming imposed an admission charge of \$1.00 and on Sundays police constables were stationed on the grounds.

Around 1905 Fleming made an offer to the city respecting his land on the western side of the North West Arm, but nothing came of this at the time. In the autumn of 1907, A.M. Bell, president of the Halifax Board of Trade, and the then mayor, Robert MacIlreith, met with Fleming in the mayor’s office over the city acquiring the southern portion of his land (included Fairy Cove with its cleared land, and Boutillier’s Point also cleared) on western side of the Arm for a public park.⁵ Afterwards, MacIlreith discussed the idea with several prominent citizens and it met with “heartly approval”. Then, on 8 April of 1908, MacIlreith wrote Fleming, inviting him to state his conditions for donating the southern portion for public use, because:

The North West Arm has of recent years become probably the chief pleasure resort of our citizens, and it is eminently desirable that a portion of its shores should be kept open to the use of the public, and for that purpose no portion is so well

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *The Halifax Herald*, 29 August 1900.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 17. Fleming intended to retain the northern portion, which adjoined Longley’s Melville Park property, and also the road passing Melville Island, which led to the entrance of Fleming’ grounds, near which was Mr. Hutton’s cottage, who was in charge of the property and “kept it in such splendid condition”.

adapted as that proposed to be dedicated.⁶

MacIlreith noted that because the property was outside the city's limits, provincial legislation might be necessary. As the present assembly session was due to end on 16 April, he requested that Fleming reply by telegraph, which Fleming did, giving his concurrence to the proposition on 11 April. MacIlreith was away so the deputy mayor convened a city council meeting to deal with Fleming's offer. Aldermen were agreed on the importance to Halifax of obtaining "the most beautiful portion of the Arm" and that he proposed park would be "more than a pleasure resort and one of the essentials of the City". Alderman Joseph Chisholm moved that the park be known as the "Sir Sanford Fleming Park", which was adopted.⁷ The city solicitor immediately prepared legislation, which the Assembly passed on the last day of the session.

An Act for the establishment of a Public Park for the City of Halifax on the western side of the North West Arm⁸ provided for three persons, nominated by Fleming, the mayor and three aldermen, to be a body corporate to receive and hold the property when donated by Fleming. This corporation had authority to make bye-laws for maintenance of good order and for improvements. By the Act, the city of Halifax was bound to provide annually no less than \$750 to the corporation so that it could fulfill its responsibilities. The park was to known as the "Sir Sandford Fleming Park".

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 15-16.

⁷ *The Halifax Herald*, 14 April 1908

⁸ Passed the 10th day of April, A.D., 1908, Chapter 71, 8 Edwd. VII, Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1908.

Celebrating the Semi-Tercentenary of Representative Government and a Memorial Tower

Meanwhile, John Neville Armstrong, a member of the Nova Scotia Legislative Council, raised the question of what the provincial government intended for the 150th anniversary of representative government. A Harvard educated barrister, Armstrong had “a reputation of being exceedingly well informed on public questions”.⁹ He had been reading Beamish Murdoch’s *History of Nova Scotia* on the events and correspondence leading up to the first assembly of 1758. Writing a century later, Murdoch, who had opposed in the 1840s the new innovation of responsible government, had been in his *History* effusive in his praise of the “attention and care bestowed by the men of the day” on framing the constitutional provisions for representative government in Nova Scotia.¹⁰ Armstrong followed Murdoch in singling out Prime Minister William Pitt as the “genius and spirit” behind the granting of “our representative government”.¹¹ On 16 April Armstrong received his answer when the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Jason Mack, made it clear the provincial government had no intention of devoting any funds in respect of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of constitutional government in the province.¹²

Armstrong’s remarks on 1908 being the 150th anniversary of representative government seem to have been the first knowledge Fleming had of it. As well, Fleming been most impressed by the Tercentenary Celebration of the founding of

⁹ *Canadian Parliamentary Guide*, 1908, p. 317.

¹⁰ Beamish Murdoch, *History of Nova Scotia*, vol. II (Halifax, 1865), pp. 326. For Murdoch’s opposition to responsible government and his advocacy of a mixed and balanced constitution, of which an elected assembly was a crucial pillar, see Philip Girard, “‘I will not pin my faith to his sleeve’: Beamish Murdoch, Joseph Howe, Responsible Government Revisited”, *Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society Journal*, vol. 4, 2001, pp. 48-69.

¹¹ Official Report of the Debates and Proceedings of the Legislative Council, 2nd session, 31st Parliament of the Province of Nova Scotia, 1908, 16 March 1908, pp. 18-22.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 49.

Quebec in 1608 by Samuel de Champlain. Events he believed had been portrayed:

with such excellent unity of spirit, sympathetic good taste, and genuine patriotism, that all Canadians of whatever origin should now feel a new pride in the history of French Canada as a most important part of the early history of their own land.¹³

Fleming now wrote Adam Crosby, who had succeeded MacIlreith as mayor, that he would be visiting Halifax shortly. He wished to confer with city authorities “on a matter of high importance”, the semi-tercentenary of the establishment of popular government in Nova Scotia and the British Empire, and the desirability of devising some way of “properly commemorating a historical fact in which the whole of Canada is so much interested, and in which Halifax was directly associated a hundred and fifty years ago”.¹⁴ He concluded by suggesting the erection of a memorial tower on the elevated point of land between the North West Arm village (Jollimore) and the club houses on the opposite shore (earlier in the spring, the Waegwoltic Club had been founded). The proposed park could be inaugurated by laying the cornerstone for the tower.¹⁵

Fleming also wrote Lieutenant Governor Duncan Fraser on 4 June detailing the historical importance of the semi-tercentenary “of which Nova Scotians may rightly claim the 150th anniversary of such an event as an occasion of which they may well be proud, and all must be agreed that it should be celebrated in a becoming manner”.¹⁶ Fleming went on to advocate the erection of “an imposing edifice to be erected on some conspicuous spot”. In this letter he made a definite offer of land for a park as a contribution to the 150th anniversary:

¹³ I, Nova Scotia and the Empire, *Letter to his Honour the Lieut-Governor*, p. 7.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 17.

¹⁵ J.A. Chisholm, *The Halifax Memorial Tower* (published by the Canadian Club, Halifax, N.S., 1913), p. 16.

¹⁶ *Letter to His Honour the Lieut-Governor*, p. 27. Fleming quotes from his letter of 4 June, though the actual letter has not been found.

I now formally offer the finest site on the whole of my property on the North West Arm for the erection of such a commemorative edifice, along with 70 or 80 acres of land, for the purpose of a park, for the use and enjoyment of the public forever.¹⁷

After Fleming arrived in Halifax specifically to advocate the erection of a memorial tower he met on 23 June with Mayor Crosby and a few leading citizens. Including among the group was the lieutenant governor, who was serving as honorary chairman of a citizens 150th Anniversary Committee, earlier formed with the mandate of finding a suitable way to celebrate the occasion.¹⁸ To this meeting Fleming submitted his views on the significance of the first elected assembly “as a step of the very highest importance in the development of the British Empire”. For Fleming the chief object was the erection of a memorial tower, while the donation of land for a public park remained very much secondary. In an address to a public meeting later in June, Fleming spoke of the “monumental edifice” in the form of an Italian tower he had in mind.¹⁹

Halifax City Councillors visited Fleming’s property to view where he intended his memorial tower to be erected. He followed their visit with a letter to Mayor Crosby making it explicit that he expected the city to take the initiative. Council was not favourable. It passed a resolution that because “the events of which such monument [a memorial tower] would be commemorative are rather of a provincial and national character than peculiar to the city”, Council believed Fleming should look elsewhere for the necessary support.²⁰ Council did, however, appoint a committee to meet with Fleming to explore the costs of accepting his offer of a public park. As far as the memorial tower project was concerned, the best this committee could suggest

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 30

¹⁸ Fleming describes this meeting in *ibid.*, pp. 23-25.

¹⁹ Part of the address quoted in Lawrence J. Burpee, *Sandford Fleming: Empire Builder* (Oxford University Press, 1915), p. 272.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 22.

was for Fleming to turn to the 150th Anniversary Committee.

Fleming's letter to 150th Anniversary Committee's secretary, J.A. Chisholm²¹ described in considerable detail what had transpired with the city. He sought the committee's assistance in realizing his belief that a memorial tower (of which the estimated cost was \$15,000), or as he was now calling it, a "mural memorial"

of a bygone life of Nova Scotia; a historical monument which would be hailed with a sense of pride by this young Canadian nation, and regarded with feelings of genuine satisfaction by the Mother Country and the whole sisterhood of British nations.²²

The 150th Anniversary Committee turned out to be unsympathetic to being involved in the erection of a memorial tower, of which Fleming wanted the cornerstone laid in 1908. On 10 August, Fleming attended a meeting of the committee, then engaged in making the arrangements for placing a brass memorial plaque on a wall in Province House. They saw their mandate as confined to the brass plaque, though individually, apparently, there was support for Fleming's project. He now wrote Lieutenant Governor Fraser again, with the purpose for bringing forward the grounds for Nova Scotia "taking the pioneer place historically in our federal system, and for regarding Halifax as the constitutional birthplace of the British Empire".²³ In support he included three papers of which the first was a brief essay on Nova Scotia and the Empire.

Nova Scotia and the Empire

²¹ A lawyer by profession Joseph Andrew Chisholm would become mayor of Halifax, 1909-1911, and for many years chief justice and receive a knighthood for his services to Nova Scotia. Among historians he is best known for his *Speeches and Public Letters of Joseph Howe*, first published in 1909.

²² Fleming to J.A. Chisholm, Ottawa, 1 July 1908, *ibid.*, pp. 20-31.

²³ Fleming to the Honourable D.C. Fraser, Halifax, 14 August 1908, *Letter to His Honour the Lieut-Governor*, pp. 1-31.

For Fleming the most glorious period in British history was the middle of the 18th century, the climax of the Anglo-French struggle, when were being laid “far and wide the foundations of an ideal world empire”. One of the first steps to render the rising British Empire possible, or as Fleming expressed it “one of the essentials to its permanency” was “to extend to the people free civil government”.²⁴ Although “in the march of human progress”, the fall of Quebec was absolutely necessary, even before the fall of Fortress Louisbourg in 1758, “steps had been taken to establish parliamentary government in Nova Scotia”. In the development of history, Fleming believed, it occasionally turned out, that at the time an event of apparent no greater moment, in the course of years proved to be “of imperishable importance”. The meeting of the first Nova Scotian assembly on 2 October 1758 had demonstrated this truth. To his paper on Nova Scotia and the Empire, Fleming attached a list of elective legislatures and the date of the first assembly within the British Empire, beginning with Nova Scotia, “the elder sister in the British Constitutional family”, and ending with Transvaal in South Africa. He concluded that:

The foregoing statement of facts goes to show that while historic Quebec has undoubted claims to be regarded as the birthplace of Canada, Nova Scotia has equal claims to be regarded as the cradle and Halifax as the constitutional birthplace of the Empire.²⁵

A Proposed Historical Tower

In Italy especially, from the 4th to 10th century were built round bell towers, usually beside or attached to a church, and called campaniles. Generally plain in

²⁴ Nova Scotia and the Empire, *Letter to His Honour the Lieut-Governor*, p. 8.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 10. In his list, Fleming did not include any of the British West Indies, which had representative governments earlier than Nova Scotia, because they were not, however, in the class of British colonies in which responsible government had been introduced. See *Circular Letter—with the compliments of The Canadian Club of Halifax addressed to The Governments and People of New Zealand, Australia, South Africa & Canada, accompanied by Pamphlet on The Beginning of the Empire*, Halifax, January 18th (hereafter, *Circular Letter*), to which was attached AN APPEAL from the Canadian Club for funds to erect the Memorial Tower and included the list with Fleming’s explanation for excluding the West Indian Islands, p. 9.

decoration, they had a few small, round-arched openings grouped near the top. Venetian campaniles, however, consisted of tall, slim, square-planned shafts, frequently tapered, rising to open belfries at the top. In the case of the most famous, the 324 foot (99-metre) high campanile in Saint Mark's Square, the clock tower proper was of brick with a square belfry of stone. The lower portion was originally begun in the 10th century, with the belfry storey finally completed in its present form and formally inaugurated in 1499, though the upper section had to be rebuilt after an earthquake in 1511.²⁶

John Ruskins' *The Stones of Venice*, published in 1851, with its celebration of Italian Gothic, greatly encouraged its use in Victorian Britain. In his writings he held up Venetian architecture as an appropriate model for British emulation, because in its days of greatness, medieval Venice had been the preeminent maritime trading nation.²⁷ Whether Fleming had read Ruskin before he visited Venice as a member of the Canadian delegation attending the 1881 International Geographical Congress there, he certainly came under Ruskins' influence. As Fleming wrote when presenting his idea for a historical tower:

If we allow ourselves to be influenced by Ruskin, on this side of the Atlantic, we may with advantage do likewise and imitate the Romans by determining to erect an architectural edifice somewhat on the lines of the celebrated Campanile at Venice... to commemorate the great anniversary... why should we not symbolize in stone, the history of Nova Scotia since it became the seat of representative

²⁶ In 1902 the tower collapsed, but was completely rebuilt by 1912, using the original construction materials. In 1997, after half a millennium of chiming, the Venetian authorities decided on a major restoration of clock's workings. As well, the tower proper had been showing signs of instability, and modern fire and security alarms needed to be installed.

²⁷ John Ruskin, *The Stones of Venice*, edited and abridged by J.G. Links (London: Collins, 1960). For Ruskin "Since first the dominion of men was asserted over the ocean, three thrones... Tyre, Venice and England" had been of a mark of beyond all others. The Third, England, had inherited their greatness, but if it forgot their example, Ruskin warned England "may be led through prouder eminence to less pitied destruction", p. 1. Ruskin was read by hundreds of thousands in his day.

government.²⁸

Fleming wanted a tower for which its “historical purpose” would be paramount. Probably for his meetings with city council and others, he drew a sketch of his proposed tower and had Horwood & Taylor Architects create a more formal drawing²⁹. Fleming saw the tower as being of “noble proportions” with the first course of masonry laid on bed rock of Nova Scotia granite to typify the beginning of representative government in 1758.³⁰ Because responsible government did not come until the 1840s, the next date of importance to Fleming, the first course of masonry rose to well over half of the projected tower’s height, and to be characterized by massive simplicity. The next course of masonry would cover the period from responsible government to Confederation, slightly more complex in design than the previous one. Far more complex was to be the design for the final historical period from Confederation to 1908 and the semi-tercentenary of representative government. Thus “each course of masonry upwards would have its meaning, and would be adorned by references to the names and deeds of distinguished men who have served their country”. In particular, he singled out Joseph Howe as an example of such a man—“one of the greatest which Canada ever produced”. Fleming wanted the architectural features of the tower to portray to the beholder its historical purpose. It should “tell its tale” to the spectator in future years when present actors are forgotten. Above all, the tower should practically and unmistakably proclaim the spirit of the

²⁸ Historical Tower Suggested, *A Memorable National Epoch: Documents Issued by The Canadian Club of Halifax respecting Nova Scotia and the Empire* (Halifax, Sept 2nd, 1908). An abbreviated version, with the title *A Memorial Tower Proposed*, also appears in *Letter to His Honour the Lieut-Governor*, August 19th, pp. 13-14 and in the *Circular Letter*, pp. 10-12.

²⁹ Horwood & Taylor was a Toronto architectural firm. E.C. Horwood had been the architect for the G.S. Campbell Residence on Halifax’s Young Avenue in 1902 and would have been familiar with the planned site. I am indebted to Garry Shutlak of the Nova Scotia Archives for the information on Horwood.

³⁰ In this and other descriptions of the tower, Fleming uses language drawn from Ruskin’s *The Stones of Venice*. For Ruskin’s description of the campanile in St. Mark’s Square, see pages 97-98 and accompanied by his drawing of it.

words:

This is a birthday tower, erected by a grateful people to inform the world that a new nation was born, and with its birth the old mother became a larger, nobler, more perfect than before.³¹

His chosen site for the tower would allow it to be seen from a long distance on every side, even far out in the Atlantic, while being conspicuous throughout the Arm. He believed that in a few years there would be great changes on the Arm with museums and other such building grouped around the tower. He foresaw a cable-ferry and street car service to the proposed new park.

Entrance of the Canadian Club

With the refusal of the city to forward his project, Fleming turned to the recently formed Canadian Club in Halifax, one of forty across Canada. In its constitution the Halifax club had as its objects “to foster patriotism by encouraging the study of the history, literature, institutions, arts and resources of Canada”.³² At a meeting with the club’s executive committee on 26 August, Fleming submitted a draft of an appeal he had prepared, addressed to Nova Scotians the world over, asking for money to erect his proposed tower. He was prepared to contribute \$1000 himself. As a result of this meeting, the executive appointed a sub-committee consisting of George S. Campbell, first president of the club, Dougald. Macgillivray and Dr. C.F. Fraser. A leading Halifax merchant, George Campbell held numerous business directorships including for many years that of Bank of Nova Scotia. Dougald Macgillivray had come from Ontario in 1906 to Halifax as Manager of the Halifax Branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Dr. Charles Frederick Fraser, blinded at age seven, had been Principal of the Nova Scotia School for the Blind since 1873. In 1915 he would be knighted for his services to the blind.

³¹ Historical Tower Suggested, p. 10.

³² Constitution of the Canadian Club of Halifax and Roll of Members, 2nd ed. 1908.

Matters now moved with commendable speed with the sub-committee reporting that Fleming was prepared to hand over a deed to his Arm property in trust to the lieutenant governor for the City of Halifax and he had requested the Canadian Club to raise the necessary funds for the erection of a tower. The club executive then resolved:

that this Executive comply with the said request and undertake (subject to the approval of the Club in General Meeting) to use its best efforts to carry the project forward to a successful completion.³³

Laying the Cornerstone

As the Nova Scotia's First Assembly has initially met on a 2nd of October, this date was selected for the laying of the cornerstone. Underneath the foundation stone was placed a copper box containing the following articles:

The Halifax Herald; The Morning Chronicle; the Acadian Recorder—of October 2nd

Nova Scotia Statutes, 1908

Debates of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, 1908

Halifax newspapers containing accounts of the unveiling of the tablet in Province House on 19 August

Pamphlet by Canadian Club in reference to the project

Sir Sandford Fleming's first pamphlet on the subject of the tower

Canadian Club Constitution

After J.A. Chisholm spoke on behalf of the Canadian Club, Fleming passed over to Lieutenant Governor the deed to the property. The deed provided for Fleming's property to be held in trust by the lieutenant governor until the completion of the tower, when he would transfer ownership to the city. As part of the ceremony, Fleming became a member of the Canadian Club (he was already a member of the Ottawa Canadian Club). He also spoke of the importance he attached to the tower as its value would not be confined to Halifax, to Nova Scotia, or to Canada; its influence

³³ J.A. Chisholm, *The Halifax Memorial Tower*, p. 22

would be far reaching throughout the British world.³⁴

Completing the Tower

Over the next two years the executive of the Canadian Club had to deal with choosing a final design, raising the necessary funds, and tendering a contract for the tower's construction. For the design, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada willingly took on the responsibility for a competition, including awarding medals for the first, second and third winning designs. In the summer of 1909, the RAIC forwarded the competition's results to the Canadian Club. After much discussion, involving three meetings, the executive decided to accept the design of Dumaresq & Cobb of Halifax.³⁵ Sidney Perry Dumaresq and Andrew Randall Cobb had been fellow classmates at Acadia University. While on graduation Dumaresq had immediately joined his father's architectural firm, Cobb went first to study architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and then to École des Beaux Arts in Paris, where he finished among the sixty successful candidates out of several hundred. During his holidays, he travelled especially to Italy, making studies of monuments. Although he spent much of his time in Rome, he may well have gone to Venice where he would have had the opportunity to study the Saint Mark's tower. Almost certainly he would have read Ruskin's *The Stones of Venice*. Cobb joined with Dumaresq in 1909. The tower may well have been Cobb's first design work with the firm, for which his Italian studies had fortuitously prepared him to undertake.

The executive committee were concerned about the cost of Dumaresq & Cobb's design and it was modified to bring it into line with the committee's estimated

³⁴ A description of the cornerstone ceremony is in J.A. Chisholm, *The Halifax Memorial Tower*, pp. 21-33.

³⁵ The design submitted by Dumaresq & Cobb and selected by the executive of the Canadian Club appeared in *Nova Scotian & Weekly Chronicle*, 16 September 1910.

cost.³⁶ The final design was more austere in its decoration than Fleming's sketch, and instead of the first masonry course of the square tower shaft being granite, it was to be in the far less expensive native ironstone, with detailing in granite. Granite was used to create a massive front entrance to the tower's interior and a string course fifteen feet from ground level. Gone was any figurative chronological representation of historical periods as portrayed in Fleming's sketch; instead, the Cobb design conformed to the Italic form of a belfry atop a massive tower shaft. Also, Cobb replaced the five archways on each of the four sides in the belfry, for which he used granite, with Palladian (or Venetian) archways and the detailing done in sandstone. He added four large overhanging balconies from which the surrounding countryside opened to view. At its base the completed tower would be thirty feet wide and rise 112 feet from the ground and 182 feet above sea level.

In 1913, the Royal Colonial Institute (forerunner of the Royal Commonwealth Society) made a gift of two bronze lions for Memorial Tower. Ten feet in length, they were placed at the base of the tower's base, "being intended to symbolize the vigilance and protection over the Empire which the Mother Country has exercised from the earliest days". They were modelled after the lions at the base of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square, which Sir Edwin Landseer, a noted painter and sculptor of animals, had completed in 1867. Those for the tower were made by Percy Benthall under the supervision of A. Bruce-Troy, a well known sculptor in the latter's London studio.³⁷

For the construction of the tower from among the tenders submitted, the executive committee chose that of S.M. Brookfield. Samuel Manners Brookfield had

³⁶ J.A. Chisholm, *The Halifax Memorial Tower*, p. 34. A comparison of final design and that which appeared in *Nova Scotian & Weekly Chronicle* suggests only minor changes at least on the exterior.

³⁷ *Echo*, 20 March 1913.

already a reputation as being the “Master Builder of Halifax and Nova Scotia”.³⁸ At the same time it appointed a building committee, which included Fleming. As club secretary, Dougald Macgillivray took on the task of raising funds. Contributions were invited from public bodies and individuals throughout the nation. On behalf of the Canadian Club efforts, Fleming composed an appeal, in which he referred to the relationship between the tercentenary celebration for the founding of Quebec and that of the “humble gathering of the nineteen representatives of the early settlers in Nova Scotia”; an event, Fleming, in a flight of what can only be described as of historical fancy, believed it had proved “to be one of the most remarkable epochs in the development of civilization”.³⁹ Members of the Canadian Club felt warranted in appealing to their fellow Canadian citizens to commemorate this “memorable epoch” and to symbolize the progress of the united Canadian people for a period of one hundred and fifty years. In this patriotic movement large contributions were not being solicited, because there were many reasons for preferring small sums. All Fleming’s deeply patriotic feelings for the significance of the Memorial Tower to Canada and the Empire, written in spirited prose, are summed up in the APPEAL’s concluding paragraph:

The contemplated Tower will stand out as a message from the past; it will be an object lesson to remind our youth of every coming generation how deeply indebted we are to great Mother of Parliaments for our inherited blessings. The Tower to be erected as a national landmark will be a famous teacher of Canadian history. Its continual tendency will be to awaken and nourish not only local, likewise the widest patriotism; it will foster loyalty to that Empire which as a common heritage we call our own; it will inspire a feeling of admiration and attachment to that

³⁸ Maud Rosinski, *Architects of Nova Scotia: A Biographical Dictionary 1605-1950* (Province of Nova Scotia, 1994), p. 189.

³⁹ *Circular Letter*, AN APPEAL, p. 7. The usual meaning of “epoch” refers to a long period of time marked by some predominant characteristic or the beginning of a new or distinctive period. When Fleming used the word (and he did often) in relation to representative government in Nova Scotia, it is latter meaning that would seem to be sense of his use of epoch.

humanizing and civilizing force which has had no equal since the world began.⁴⁰

Such was the response to the appeal that funds were available to begin construction in 1910. At this point, however, it became apparent that not only Canadians, but also other parts of the Empire were interested. Fleming had already written to leading public men in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and other countries within the Empire. Encouraged by reception received to these letters, the Canadian Club executive decided to print a *Circular Letter* to the governments and people of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa & Canada. It described how the Canadian Club of Halifax, in “a spirit of wide patriotism” had undertaken to erect a Memorial Tower for commemorating the origin of representative government in Nova Scotia. The proposed tower was not to be regarded as limited to any part of the Canadian Dominion, but to be considered as extending to all other self-governing overseas states of the Empire; in this light the *Circular* proclaimed that the “Memorial Tower will cease to be merely local or provincial, and become Inter-Imperial”.⁴¹

In widening the appeal to make the tower “Inter-Imperial”, Fleming’s original concept was completely abandoned for the interior (as well as the exterior) to reflect the tower’s purpose of emphasising the historical progression from representative government, through responsible government and Confederation, to the 150th anniversary in 1908. In its final form, the interior was divided into a lower chamber, an upper chamber, and an observation floor at the top with its four large overhanging balconies, and which could be reached by a iron stairway. As in the Italian campaniles, natural light flows into the interior through a rising progression of small windows located on all four sides. Much effort went into the interior decoration by the use of beautifully sculptured panels done in every case in the native stone of the donors. Donors ranged from sister dominions like New Zealand, Canadian provinces, Canadian universities, including Dalhousie, Kings and Acadia, and the chief cities of

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 8.

⁴¹ *Circular Letter*, p. 2.

Great Britain. In the lower chamber was inserted an inscription plate in bronze describing the reasons for the tower's erection, the laying of the foundation stone on 2 October 1908, and the role of Canadian Club and Fleming's gift of 100 acres. Unquestionably, then and still, the most appealing tablet is that presented by the City of Bristol, a bronze reproduction in relief of Ernest Board's picture "The Departure of John and Sebastian Cabot from Bristol on their First Voyage of Discovery, 1497".⁴²

Completion of the tower in 1912 allowed for its dedication by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught (a son of Queen Victoria) as Governor General to take place on 14 August. Probably "never before in the history of the city was so large, so representative and so brilliant a company gathered together".⁴³ Among those attending were Sir George Reid, Australia's High Commissioner to Canada, Sir Francois Langelier, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec and the Premier of that province, Sir Lomer Gouin. Leading a delegation from Bristol was the city's Lord Mayor, Sir Frank Wills, and for the Royal Colonial Institute, Dr. George Parkin. Nova Scotia's Lieutenant Governor, James Drummond McGregor, presided. After numerous speeches, Fleming stepped forward and to "vociferous cheers" handed over the deeds to the Mayor of Halifax, Frederick Bligh, giving title to the city for the Memorial Tower and Park. In doing Fleming spoke of his "genuine satisfaction" because he had been able successfully to advocate the erection of the tower:

to commemorate the first meeting of an elective assembly in Nova Scotia in 1758—that event being, in fact, the planting of the germ of parliamentary rule in the overseas dominions of the empire.

⁴² The relief was executed at the Bristol Municipal School of Art by Ernest F. Fabian. Board's painting hangs in the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. A colour reproduction can be found in Brian Cuthbertson, *John Cabot & The Voyage of the Matthew* (Halifax: Formac Publishing, 1997), p. 38

⁴³ J.A. Chisholm, *Halifax Memorial Tower*, p. 42. For other description of events on that 14 August 1912, see

With much public spirit and true patriotism the Canadian Club of Halifax has erected such a tower; the memorial edifice is enriched by many contributions from the over-sea dominions, and thus it stands unique among national and imperial monuments.

It is to the Canadian Club of Halifax that the British people in both hemispheres are indebted for the erection of this emblem of gratitude from the daughter nations to the Motherland.⁴⁴

Dougald Macgillivray, now president of the Canadian Club of Halifax and who had done so much to make the day possible, spoke on behalf of the club, remarking that he believed that:

The Tower will prove a national landmark. It will, we hope, awaken the widest patriotism. It will foster loyalty to the empire which as a common heritage we call our own, and which we are assured is the greatest secular agency for good in the world today.⁴⁵

In the name of the Canadian Club of Halifax, MacGillivray now requested the lieutenant governor to invite "His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief, to dedicate this Tower and Park to the purposes for which it has been intended". After brief remarks, Connaught concluded that:

Nova Scotia, the cradle of representative government beyond the seas, may look with pride on this Memorial Tower, the Canadian Statute of Liberty, which I now dedicate to the commemoration of the first representative parliament accorded by the Mother Country to any portion of the dominions beyond the seas.⁴⁶

Later in the day King George V sent his sincere thanks to a cable sent by Connaught informing His Majesty of his dedication of the Tower, and sending

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 49-50

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 52-53.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 54

expressions of loyalty from those present at the ceremony. So ended the dedication of the Memorial Tower, first proposed by Fleming in the spring/summer of 1908.

Role of Dougald Macgillivray

In a brief pamphlet on the Memorial Tower that he wrote in 1922, Archibald MacMechan said of Dougald Macgillivray's role in the erection of the tower:

Once more the Mayflower Province has taken the lead. The Italian campanile of native ironstone and granite overlooking the Arm is the first edifice of the kind erected in Canada to perpetuate the memory of a political event. It is a unique achievement and one worthy of the patriotic Canadian Club.

Though many hands and brains contributed to the result, the chief honor should go to the man who conceived the great plan, interested the British Commonwealth in it, saw it through all its stages of growth to its triumphant completion. That man was Dougald Macgillivray, President of the Canadian Club.⁴⁷

Macgillivray's obituary also credited him with the initiative: "that Memorial Tower which now dominates the North-west Arm was erected, and he carried it through, the infinite detail entailed by its building and dedication in a park of which he also worked so assiduously". In the tower Macgillivray had been careful to see that each country in the British Commonwealth, each province in Canada and each university was represented. The obituary writer continued:

This tower was characteristic of the man himself, typifying the rise not of a hero nor of triumphs in battle but of the peaceful achievement of a place of prominence by the people themselves in the first representative government in the overseas empire.⁴⁸

In future years Macgillivray would contribute much to his adopted home. He

⁴⁷ Archibald MacMechan, *The Memorial Tower* (published for the author by H.H. Marshall at his shop over against the Province House in Halifax, Nova Scotia, 19220, pp. 11-12.

⁴⁸ Obituary,

would be active in acquiring the statue of Robbie Burns in Victoria Park and opposite the Gates of the Halifax Public Gardens and that of Edward Cornwallis in Cornwallis Park. For years he served on Dalhousie University's Board of Governors and donated numerous gifts, including his library of hundreds of volumes, made invaluable by the signatures of authors, ranging from Mussolini to Clemenceau and Winston Churchill to Colonel Lindbergh. Also he was the founder of the *Dalhousie Review*, a quarterly that continues to this day.