

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL, 1841 ARGYLE STREET



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 3A5

January 5, 1981

Dear Otis

Exactly one month ago you wrote regarding the Halifax Explosion. Your idea and the way you developed it is an excellent one. As an M.L.A. I spoke with Bill Orr about the bells and the possibility of properly housing them as a memorial to the victims of the explosion. These bells were originally presented to the church as a memorial by the Orr family. This information may not be completely accurate. My impression is that the chimes are valuable and to get them back in operation would be a considerable expense.

I mentioned in the House and also in the press the idea of getting the bells back in operation as a memorial, and the reaction was not what I expected. Some people wanted any money from the old Explosion Relief Fund used only for benefits for the surviving pensioners.

Despite all this, I agree with your proposal. I will send a copy of your letter to Mr. Lou Collins, who is City Historian and suggest that the three of us give this idea of yours some thought. The idea of Trudeau coming may not be within reach but the Minister of Veterans Affairs or some other Federal person could be accepted. At any rate, something should be done in line with your suggestion, and Sunday makes a good day for any special ceremony, especially since mention could be made in the various churches.

.....2

Thanks again Otis and let's
keep this idea alive and move it forward.

Sincerely

RON WALLACE
M A Y O R

Mr. Otis C. O'Hara
5570 Heatherwood Court
Halifax, N. S.
B3K 5N7

cc: Mr. Lou Collins
6443 London Street
Halifax, N. S.

2

Judge Robert E. Inglis, Q. C.
Honourable Edmund Morris, M. L. A.
Honourary Co-Chairman

cordially invite you to attend the

God Turning Ceremony

for the

Halifax Explosion Memorial Bells Tower

at Fort Needham

(North East Corner)

on Friday, June 1st, 1984 — 11 a.m.

Reception to Follow: — Grand Brewery
Schooner Room

R.S.V.P. — Regrets Only
Mrs. Sandra Carter

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HALIFAX EXPLOSION MEMORIAL BELLS COMMITTEE

1984.05.22

P.O. Box 1267
Halifax North Postal Stn.
B3K 5H4
(902) 421-6730

Mr. Keith L. Graham
Core Design Group
Suite 212
5251 Duke Street
Scotia Square
Halifax B3J 1P3

RE: Excavation Techniques
Needham Memorial Bell Tower

Dear Sir:-

Following the soils investigation for this project which was attended both by the City Historian and the Provincial Archaeologist we have been advised that perhaps certain precautions should be undertaken during the excavation for the Memorial. Mr. Lou Collins, the City Historian, has contacted the writer and suggested that your specifications should provide certain safeguards in the interest of the historical significance of the site.

It is suggested that the contract documents provide for a careful removal of the first 8" to 24" of the topsoil of the site, perhaps in two passes by a very delicate bulldozing operation. It is apparent that any archaeological significant material will be within the two 2' of the surface. In addition it has been requested that both the site personnel and the Contractor be encouraged to look for rock foundations and rock "french drains".

I am sure that you will see that this information is properly documented in the Tender Call, and the specifications. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Yours very truly,


M.H. FRANK HARRINGTON

MHFH:pck
c.c. Mr.L. Collins

Mr. R.H. MacLean

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