



HALIFAX WOMEN'S
HISTORY ♦ SOCIETY

Halifax Women's History Society Monthly Newsletter

Issue no. 6, December 2016

WOW! A Wonderful Gift for Christmas!

Do you have women and men on your Christmas list who are hard to buy for? You don't have any idea what to get them this year? Why not give a membership in the Halifax Women's History Society (\$25) or send a donation in their name to the Woman on the Waterfront monument project.

Send an email to womanwaterfront@gmail.com and mark the subject line: "Christmas gift." Provide your name and address, AND the name, address and email of the person receiving your gift. HWHS will send out a WOW notecard, informing them of the gift from you.

You can go to our web site at <http://halifaxwomenshistory.ca> and pay via PayPal by clicking the membership or donation buttons at the top. Or you can send a cheque to the Halifax Women's History Society. PO Box 60022, Halifax Professional Centre PO, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4R7 and mark it "Christmas membership gift or Christmas donation gift."

Cheques and PayPal payments must be received by Monday, Dec. 12 for HWHS to get notification of your gift in the mail before Christmas.

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for a friend or family member for Christmas is a wonderful way for them to become part of the first monument in Halifax to honour women's place in

this city's history.

Season's Greetings from the President

Warmest wishes to all our members and supporters in this cold season of the year. We're about to enter the final year of our Women on the Waterfront project and we're all working hard on the last stages of the work. We hope to announce the winning design in the new year.

We thank all of you for your generous response to our annual fundraising letter. The Halifax Women's History Society deeply appreciates your support – whether it's financial, volunteer time or attending our events. Our fundraising efforts have been successful so far, but we're ready to make the final push that will help us achieve our goals and make the monument a reality.

We wish you all a happy 2017 – certainly it will be a happy and exciting one for those of us awaiting the unveiling of the monument next November.

Janet Guildford, Chair
Halifax Women's History Society

Woman of the Month: Margaret Mary Healey (1912-1984)

Margaret Healey was born to Patrick and Catherine (Bernice) Healey of Halifax in 1912. She lived her entire life in the city of Halifax on Spring Garden Road. She is most well known for her dedication and impressive work during her 46 years with the Halifax Herald and the fact that she was the first woman to be promoted to the position of Editor by a major Canadian daily newspaper.* She covered the Moose River Mine disaster in 1936 and interviewed the wives of the miners who died, after which she earned the title of "Staff Writer." A serious journalist, Margaret had a keen sense of humour and was dedicated to accuracy in investigative reporting, integrity and good writing.*

Her many accomplishments include being the Chairperson of The Media Club

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journalism and the club. Honoured as "Woman of the Year" she was an active member of Beta Sigma Phi at their Founders Day Banquet.

On a personal note, she was my Great Aunt Margaret, a woman to be admired.

She never married but kept a card box on her kitchen table that held pictures of all her great nieces and nephews. After her retirement is when I got to know her on a more personal level. Although confined to her house due to ill health, she agreed to do reading for the Blind for the St. Mary's University Resource Library. I would pick up the books and tapes and deliver them to her. One day when I went to St. Mary's to get her next book, I was told the only book they had was a book about Sex. I was a little unsure whether this would be an acceptable topic for my Aunt Margaret, so I called her. She agreed to read it. When I picked it up two weeks later, I asked her what she thought of it. Her only comment was "It was interesting."

Within our family Margaret Healey is a well-loved and well remembered icon. I wrote this article because I thought she deserves a place in Canadian and Halifax history as a woman who paved the way not only for young women journalists but for all journalists.

Margaret Mary Healey passed away in 1984 but her legacy lives on.

*Taken from an article in the Halifax Herald by Lorna Inness.

Thank you to Catherine Hubley for kindly contributing this piece about her Great Aunt! We are delighted to honour her as our Woman of the Month.



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Happening in Halifax

Bluenose-Ability Film Festival

Art of Ability Film Screening

December 2, 2016, 1-3pm, Halifax Central Library

(Facebook event [here](#))

Dalhousie Feminist Seminar Series

“Using caring science as a framework for understanding queer invisibility in nursing”

Lisa Goldberg, School of Nursing

December 2, 2016, 12:30-1:30pm Marion McCain 2021

Bluenose-Ability Film Festival

Mental Health and Film Panel

December 3, 2016, 10:30am-12:30pm, Halifax Central Library

(Facebook event [here](#))

Society News!



Most of you are likely aware that Nova Scotia's own Viola Desmond has been shortlisted as one of the final five women to be on the new \$50 bill. Show your support for an



A warm thank you to Dal Magazine for featuring a piece about our work in their fall edition. We are proud to have so many Dalhousie alumna on our board; even more have joined

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helping to ensure that her brave actions are memorialized properly.



Halifax Manuments instalment 3: Robbie Burns. HWHS is not protesting any of the existing historical monuments in Halifax; we simply wish to highlight the lack of diversity in our city's public spaces. This photo series is aiming to illustrate just how few of our historical monuments give credit to the many women, people of colour, indigenous peoples, members of the LGBTQ+ community, the differently abled and other marginalised groups who have made significant contributions to the history of Nova Scotia. They do exist and one of the reasons their historical importance is widely unknown is precisely because of this lack of public representation.

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About the Society

Founded in 2013, the Halifax Women's History Society (HWHS) researches and makes known the untold story of the remarkable contributions that women have made to the history of Halifax. "A Woman on the Waterfront" is the Society's first project.

Membership is available for anyone who wishes to support us. Lifetime membership is \$25 for adults and \$5 for students, purchasable by paypal on our [website](#).

Women's work is too often invisible to the public, especially in the history of the Second World War, which focuses on men and rarely mentions women's volunteer work. Without the work of countless volunteers, Halifax would not have been able to meet the needs of the huge influx of people into the city or support the military personnel and their families who made Halifax home during the war. There are more than 100 cairns, steles, sculptures and plaques in Halifax. Less than a dozen are of female figures and most of these are from mythology or are symbolic. A monument — The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles — to women volunteers would honour them and provide public acknowledgement of their numerous contributions.



Newsletter Submissions

Have something you would like to see in our next newsletter? An event, news story, picture, piece of writing or historical figure that is relevant to our cause? Please send us the information and we would be delighted to consider it for next month. We ask that submissions be consistent with our mission of sharing the untold stories of women in the history of Nova Scotia and Halifax - any that do not will not be included.



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