



HALIFAX WOMEN'S
HISTORY ♦ SOCIETY

Halifax Women's History Society Monthly Newsletter

Issue no. 9, March 2017

Message from the President

We are just days away from our design announcement at City Hall on Thursday, March 9. We are gathering at 10 a.m. The design for our monument, *The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles*, will be on display, and the sculptor will be on hand to introduce her work. This is a very exciting time in the life of the WOW project and we look forward to seeing many of you at City Hall.

We are on our way to the finish line now. After four years of planning and fundraising we can look forward to completion of the monument by November. Our sculptor, chosen by a jury appointed by the Society, is hard at work on the design and the construction of the three bronze, life-sized, female figures. Plans are to deliver them to the Halifax Seaport by the end of October.

Keep watch on our site on the waterfront walkway, just north of the Halifax Seaport Market and beside the monument called *The Emigrant*. The site will be substantially reconfigured this spring in preparation for the installation: look for the “coming soon” signs at the site as construction gets under way.

The support of you, our members, and our friends and community, have made this monument a reality. Together we are creating the very first major monument to women's contributions to history in Halifax — a major cause for celebration.

2017 IS THE TIME FOR WOMEN ON THE WATERFRONT!

Janet Guildford, Chair, Halifax Women's History Society and its WOW project

In honour of the unveiling of our monument design on March 9 — the week of International Women's Day — we have chosen a special Woman of the Month. Charlotte Guy Jeffries is one of the many Second World War volunteers we are honoring with our monument, *The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles*. She is also the subject of a new biography, [*Turn the Other Cheek*](#), by Dorothy Grant.

Charlotte was born in 1921 in Halifax. She attended the Halifax Ladies' College where she flourished and became a talented pianist and accordionist. During the Second World War, she became a star performer with the Halifax Concert Party Guild.

Hugh Mills, owner of the famous Mills Brothers landmark department store on Spring Garden Road, formed the Guild. Its focus was entertainment for the troops and sailors stationed in the city, either on garrison duty or waiting for transport overseas. The Guild was an amazing success. By July 1944, the Guild had given over 2,300 shows to half a million men, plus it had a weekly radio show on station CHNS.

Late in 1945, the Guild travelled to Britain and occupied Europe to entertain the troops stuck in barracks, waiting for transport back to Canada. Charlotte sailed across the Atlantic with the Guild. For the next five months she and the group delighted Allied soldiers across Europe.

Over 70 years later Charlotte still resides in Halifax and continues to entertain and play the piano. She is one of the Halifax Women's History Society's treasured Second World War volunteers.

It is for Charlotte and the thousands of incredible women who met the needs of housing, hospitality, entertainment, recreation, medical care, respite, clothing, blood donor clinics and sale of war bonds that we are commemorating Second World War female volunteers.

We are fortunate to have her and other women volunteers as part of our community and to be able to honor their contributions in helping to win the Second World War.



Left: Charlotte Guy Jeffries (bottom right) with the Halifax Concert Party Guild

Right: Charlotte Guy Jeffries at our October 1, 2016 Canteen Event

Happening in Halifax

Dalhousie Feminist Seminar Series

“Historiography and hagiography of feminist interventions into Canada’s constitution”

Louise Carbert, Department of Political Science

March 3, 12:30-1:30pm, Marion McCain building room 2021

Board Room Trivia: Girl Power

March 7, 11pm, the Board Room Game Café

Facebook event [here](#)

Nova Scotia Federation of Labour

NSFL International Women's Day Breakfast

March 8, 8-9am, NSGEU (255 John Savage Drive, Dartmouth)

Facebook event [here](#)

The Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Mosaic: Identity and Community Connection

March 8, 6-8pm, Pier 21

Good Robot Brewing Company

FemmeBot: Taproom Takeover

March 8, 6pm, Good Robot

Facebook event [here](#)

The Local Council of Women Halifax

Women & Media: An International Women's Day Panel Discussion

March 8, 6:30-8:30pm, McNally Main Auditorium

Facebook event [here](#)

NSCAD Library

Art + Feminism edit-a-thon

March 10, 10am-2pm, NSCAD Library

Facebook event [here](#), RSVP [here](#)

Nova Scotia Royal Historical Society Public Lecture Series

"The Training of the Jewish Legion at Fort Edward during the First World War"

Sara Beanlands, Principal and Senior Archaeologist, Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc.

March 15, 7:30pm, Public Archives of Nova Scotia

Society News!

March 9 Event — RSVP by March 2

The Society's reveal of the design for *The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles*, is only a week away. If you haven't responded to the RSVP request, please do so

at: hwhsevents@gmail.com

We hope many of you can join Mayor Mike Savage and Society Chair Janet Guildford as we announce the winning design and introduce you to the sculptor. The monument is the first full-sized



Halifax. It recognizes the extraordinary volunteer work of women during the Second World War. The Time for a Woman on the Waterfront has come!

When: Thursday, March 9 at 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Halifax Hall, Halifax City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

protesting any of the existing historical monuments in Halifax; we simply wish to highlight the lack of diversity in our city's public spaces. We have chosen to memorialize a man who, while impressive and influential, and certainly deserves remembrance, was not born or ever lived in Nova Scotia instead of any number of people who were more central to the history of this city and province. 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.

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,

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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