



HALIFAX WOMEN'S
HISTORY ♦ SOCIETY

Halifax Women's History Society Newsletter

Winter 2019 Issue

Round Up

- *The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles* is joined by a new monument on the waterfront! The Lebanese Emigrant Statue celebrates the long-standing Lebanese community in Halifax and Nova Scotia and its contributions. Excellent company for the Volunteers! More information [here](#).
- Our very own Chair, Sharon M. H. MacDonald, published three pieces for the website [Historic Nova Scotia](#) on [Jewish Women Volunteers in WWII](#), the exceptional quantity of [Canadian Comfort Quilts](#) Nova Scotian women sent to England during WWII and the WWII-era singing and performing group [The Three Debs](#).
- Sharon was joined on Historic Nova Scotia by our Past Chair, Janet Guildford, who published two pieces on the early years of the [Local Council of Women House of Halifax](#) and the reformer and suffragette [Edith Archibald](#).
- On Unwritten Histories, Stephanie Pettrigew recounted the story of [Jeanne Dugas of Acadie](#) as part of their "Ordinary Women" series.
- A Halifax park has been re-named in honour of a prominent Halifax LGBTQIA activist, [Raymond Taavel](#), who was tragically killed while trying to break up a fight in the North End of Halifax in 2012.

Desmond, with the Bank of Canada Museum's [temporary exhibit on Viola and her life](#).

- In more monument news, Prince Edward Island is planning on erecting a statue of Lucy Maud Montgomery, famed author of *Anne of Green Gables*, in Cavendish Heritage Park by June 2019.
 - Lucy Maud Montgomery's other famous work, [Emily of New Moon](#), recently featured prominently on the hit Netflix original show *Russian Doll* (beware of spoilers).
- The Dalhousie Panel on Slavery, chaired by Dr. Afua Cooper, has [released their conclusions](#), recommending an apology but no name change for the university. The Panel was formed for Dalhousie University's 200th anniversary in order to investigate and study the school's history of racism and links to slavery.

Happy Birthday to Mary Somers, from everyone on the board of the Halifax Women's History Society!

Mary was the Communications Chair throughout the process of erecting *The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles*. She put massive amounts of time and effort into making that monument the success that it is, and we could not have done it without her. We could not be more grateful to her for everything she's done, and we wish her a very happy (and relaxing) birthday!

Society Events!

Annual General Meeting! If you're interested in learning what the society is doing, finding a way to



society, join us on April 6, 2019 from 1:30-3:30 at the Local Council of Women. Please RSVP to halifaxwhs@gmail.com or 902-483-5240.

Share Their Stories!

We will be hosting a series of events in the Spring of 2019 in the hopes of sharing local women's history through photos, letters, recipes and other documents. For more information about the event, please see [this post on our blog](#).

What We're Reading

- *The Birth of the Pill: How Four Crusaders Reinvented Sex and Launched a Revolution* by Jonathan Eig
 - *Educated* by Tara Westover
-

Society News!



"The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles"
Sculpted by Marlene Hilton Moore

Call for Submissions

We are seeking enthusiastic members and friends to begin writing content and stories for our blog. Interested in contributing short 500-700 word blog posts? Contact halifaxwhs@gmail.com for more information!

Contribute to the Halifax Women's History Society!

We are proud to say that the society has successfully erected the first historical monument celebrating women in Halifax, but we still have much to do. If you would like to be a part of our future endeavours, consider making a donation to the society. Any amount helps, and we are always appreciative of community support.

To donate via Pay Pal, please visit [our website](#)

About the Society

Founded in 2013, the Halifax Women's History Society (HWHS) researches and makes known the untold

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. *The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles* honours women volunteers and provides public acknowledgement of their numerous contributions.



Newsletter Submissions

Have something you would like to see in our next newsletter or on our blog? 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. We are always looking for contributions of 300-700 words to our bi-weekly blog.



