

## **MEDIA NOTICE: Dalhousie to host Halifax Explosion panel discussion on October 11<sup>th</sup>**

On **Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**, the Dalhousie Art Gallery, Faculty of Health and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in conjunction with the Narratives in Space + Time Society will host a panel discussion marking the upcoming 100 year commemoration of the Halifax Explosion.

**WHAT:** Halifax Explosion Commemoration panel event and opening of art exhibitions  
**WHO:** The panel will include experts from Dalhousie's Faculties of Health, Arts and Social Sciences, and Architecture  
**WHERE:** Dalhousie Arts Centre, 6101 University Avenue, Halifax  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 (panel event begins at 7pm in the Dunn Theatre)

Open to the public, this free event will explore how the Halifax Explosion led to the development and professionalization of multiple health and social service professions, how it changed the physical features of the city, and how it has been commemorated and memorialized over the last 100 years.

Featuring a broad range of experts representing the fields of history, architecture, sociology and anthropology, nursing, pharmacy, social work and emergency response, each panelist will give a short presentation before opening the floor to a facilitated dialogue with attendees.

The panel discussion follows the opening reception for the Dalhousie Art Gallery's suite of exhibitions about the Halifax Explosion at 6 PM. Following the panel, all attendees are invited to return to the gallery for refreshments and to further explore the Halifax Explosion exhibitions.

### **Agenda:**

**6:00–7:00 p.m.** Opening of the Halifax Explosion exhibitions, Dalhousie Art Gallery  
**7:00–8:30 p.m.** Panel Discussion: Reflecting on progress and developments spurred by the Halifax Explosion, Sir James Dunn Theatre, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Dalhousie Arts Centre  
**8:30 p.m.** Social reception, Dalhousie Art Gallery

### **Panelists:**

#### **The Missing Link**

Dr. David A. Sutherland, Retired History professor, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Presentation: David Sutherland's presentation will explore the politics of memory and the shifting emphasis in recollection of the disaster of 1917.

Bio: David Sutherland is a retired history professor who taught classes in Canadian and Nova Scotian history at Dalhousie for more than 30 years. His research initially focused on pre-Confederation Halifax but then moved forward into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, concentrating on social and political transformation. His new book, *"We Harbor No Evil Design": Rehabilitation Efforts after the Halifax Explosion of 1917* (University of Toronto Press for the Champlain Society) will be released this year. David currently serves on the committee advising Halifax City Council on preparations for commemoration of the disaster of 1917.

### **The table as a contemporary archive, in both physical and augmented reality**

Brian Lilley, Faculty of Architecture

Derek Reilly, Faculty of Computer Science

Presentation: Brian Lilley's presentation will explore the Psychogeographer's Table Project, part of the Dal Art Gallery's Halifax Explosion exhibit, which features a number of projections to accompany contemporary artifacts. Derek Reilly will discuss the relationship of the interface design and content decisions made to the theme of the work.

Bio: Brian Lilley is an associate professor with Dal's Faculty of Architecture. His research focuses on ecological, programmatic, and artistic strategies influencing design. His built projects advocate health and well-being of communities through capacity-building. He is a founding member of the Narratives in Space and Time Society, along with Robert Bean, Barbara Louder, and M.E. Luka.

Derek Reilly is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Computer Science at Dalhousie University, and director of the Graphics and Experiential Media Lab. His research considers the role physical space plays in human-computer interaction.

### **Social work and social conflict after the Halifax Explosion**

Michelle Hebert Boyd, Dal Social Work Alum

Presentation: Michelle Hebert Boyd's presentation will explore how the profession of social work developed as a result of the Halifax Explosion.

Bio: Michelle Hebert Boyd is Executive Director of Eating Disorders Nova Scotia. She has worked across Canada as a social worker, journalist, and political advisor. She holds an MSW with a concentration in community development, and has been part of ambitious movements to change the way health and social services are planned and delivered.

### **The ESS response, 100 years ago**

Ismael Aquino, Health Administration lecturer, Faculty of Health

Presentation: Ismael Aquino's presentation will explore the development of emergency social services in the aftermath of the Halifax Explosion.

Bio: Ismael Aquino is a lecturer with Dal Health's School of Health Administration. He is also the Nova Scotia Provincial Director and Atlantic Regional Director (Education) for the Canadian Red Cross. His specialties include program management in the areas of disaster management, community health, and volunteer resources.

### **How the Halifax Explosion changed the career direction of nurses and nursing practice**

Gloria Stephens, Registered Nurse

Presentation: Gloria Stephens' presentation will cover the impact of the Halifax Explosion on the professionalization of the field of nursing.

Bio: Gloria Stephens is a retired Registered Nurse, now concentrating on nursing history stories. She is the founder and president of Nursing History NS, the Association of Health Sciences

Archives and Museum of NS (AHSAMNS) and a member of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN).

### **Pharmacists and the Halifax Explosion**

Mary MacCara, Dal Pharmacy Alum and retired College of Pharmacy faculty

Presentation: Mary MacCara will describe the care pharmacists provided and some of the unexpected roles pharmacists played following the Halifax Explosion.

Bio: Mary MacCara is a pharmacist who recently retired from a 34-year career as a faculty member at the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy. Mary developed a passion for pharmacy history while researching the College of Pharmacy's history for its centennial in 2011. Her interest in the Halifax Explosion began while growing up in rural Nova Scotia and hearing family members tell stories of the horrific event. Mary's research on pharmacists and their roles in the relief efforts following the Explosion was published this month as a book: *Dispensing Aid: Druggists and the Halifax Explosion*.

### **Whose explosion is it anyway?**

Dr. Martha Radice, Sociology & Social Anthropology, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

Presentation: Martha Radice's presentation will explore the stories of the Explosion that circulate in the city today, who tells them and how they are shared.

Bio: Martha Radice is a social anthropologist whose work focuses on the social, spatial and cultural dynamics of cities. She is speaking about the Halifax explosion because she is especially interested in the stories of belonging that circulate in cities – whether they are hidden in the signs decorating a storefront, performed in a parade or a festival, or passed on from one city-dweller to another. Her research has mainly been on Canadian cities, but she is now studying carnival in New Orleans. She is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology.

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