



Why public art?

There are more than 100 cairns, steles, sculptures and plaques in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Less than a dozen contain female figures, and most of these are symbolic or from mythology. There are two honoring actual women. Sarah Howard, a Victorian businesswoman who turned her parlor hat shop into the city's first department store, is portrayed in a bust at Founders Square on Hollis Street. There's also a modest sign in Camp Hill Cemetery, marking the grave of Viola Desmond, the civil rights pioneer who refused to move from the "whites-only" section of the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow in 1946. But there are no statues or monuments to women.

Women make up 50% of the population of Halifax and yet they are nearly invisible in its history. Monuments are public art and should reflect our diverse culture.

The absence of women in public art hides the enormous contributions women have made to the history of the city. That needs to change. A place to start is with the countless sacrifices and the volunteer work, carried out by women in HRM during the two world wars. Women must be a visible part of history.

A monument — The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles — to women volunteers would honour them and provide public acknowledgement of their numerous contributions. It would educate the citizens of today and the future about the essential services that women willingly and generously provided.

What is the WOW Project?

WOW: A WOMAN on the WATERFRONT

WOW's goal is to have a monument — The Volunteers/Les Bénévoles — on the Halifax waterfront to honour the work of the thousands of women, who volunteered their time and labour during wartime.

The WOW PROJECT

WOW is a project of the **Halifax Women's History Society**. Set up in 2013 to research and make known the untold story of the remarkable and essential contributions that women have made to the history of Halifax, the Society aims to bring women's history to the public through public monuments, conferences, broadcasts, performances and written material. WOW is its first project.

This project will involve historical research, major fundraising, a call for proposals from sculptors, a selection of the most appropriate design, and the eventual erection of this public art.

It's time for...



A
Woman
— on the —
Waterfront

An Untold Story of Volunteerism

Q&A

Join now!
Life Membership Form
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During the First and Second World Wars, women gave untold hours of volunteer service. They provided nursing care, respite and hospitality, working through such organizations as The Canadian Red Cross, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, The North End Canteen, Women's Institute, IODE, Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), church groups and numerous other collectives.

They provided millions of magazines, organized canteens, cooked and served meals, knitted scarves and mittens, made quilts, arranged blood donor drives and raised money — all in support of the war effort.

The statistics tell the story: These are from Red Cross records for 1945.

Knitted comforts for men	42,282
Hospital supplies	30,746
Surgical dressings	33,263
Clothing & quilts for Civilian Relief	36,356

Halifax during wartime was a city of soldiers, sailors and merchant mariners. Although seldom acknowledged, it was also a city of women volunteers. It's time to remember their incredible organizing power and contribution.

- Q.** Who will pay for the monument?
A. A fund-raising campaign has been launched to raise the money.
- Q.** Who will get the commission for the monument?
A. There will be a call for proposals to artists and the winning design will be chosen by a committee.
- Q.** When will the monument be erected?
A. The Society's aim is to have it in place by 2017.

halifaxwomenshistory.ca

Visit the Society's website to learn more about the WOW project

Membership Fee

- \$25.00 Adults
- \$5.00 Students (full-time)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTAL CODE _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

Make a Donation

- \$25 \$100 \$250 _____

HWHS is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and can issue tax receipts for donations.

Questions? Contact us at
womanwaterfront@gmail.com

Send this form & your cheque, payable to the
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Or fill it out online & pay with PayPal.