

WALKING THE DEBRIS FIELD

Public Geographies of the Halifax Explosion

Public Walk

Presented by Narratives in Space + Time Society



Saturday December 6, 2014 at 10:30 am
Starting at the historic marker in the
Hydrostone Market - Young and Kaye Streets
Halifax, Nova Scotia **All are welcome**

NiS+TS

Arts
NOVA SCOTIA
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

Walking the Debris Field Public Geographies of the Halifax Explosion

If you have a smartphone with a GPS tracking app, please turn the app on now, and make a track of this walk.

After the walk, please send your recorded track to us at: nistyh@zmail.co

This walk is an opportunity for us to meet and converse informally with others. We have planned some events and presentations to take place at specific sites along the way. Here are some highlights about the sites where we will be stopping:

1. Our starting point is the National Historic Sites marker in the Hydrostone neighbourhood. This is a site of remembrance of the Explosion itself, and a symbol of the effort, creativity and spirit that went into reconstructing a community.

2. The next stop is at the Explosion memorial bells in Fort Needham Memorial Park, a visible and audible reminder of the Explosion. Actor Brian Downey will present a reading here.

3. We will proceed to the staircase leading to Richmond Street, a vector from the Memorial to the location of Pier 6, where the Mont Blanc exploded at 9:04:35 on December 6, 1917. Just to the south is the site where the Acadia Sugar Refinery stood, its chimney a landmark on the harbour. This was the heart of Richmond, named after Richmond, Virginia, where flour and sugar were shipped from. The model of the refinery was made by architect Anton Christiansen, who lives in the Hydrostone neighbourhood. The view of Ground Zero is now obstructed by the new structures being built at the Irving Shipyard as part of the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy. Warships start here.

4. This railing with a view overlooks the community of Mulgrave Park. This area was rebuilt fifty years ago, many years after the Explosion. Just south is where Pier 6 was, and beyond that, the Sugar Refinery. From here, you can see across the Narrows to Tufts Cove and Turtle Grove, where a Mi'kmaq community stood until it was destroyed in the Explosion.

5. We will have a rest stop near Jarvis Lane. Mulgrave Park is now home to many Haligonians; adults, youth and children participate in activities organized by community organizations such as the Caring and Learning Centre, the Phoenix Youth program, Progress in the Park, and 4Cs community art projects. The reading here is by Josephine Macnab. Donuts are from Ol'School Donuts of Dartmouth.

6. The community garden behind the Devonshire Arena is near the site of the original Richmond School (and within sight of the Richmond School built to replace the destroyed one, now the Family Court building). The granite stones along the edge of the parking lot are said to be from the Richmond Printing Company, destroyed during the Explosion. The "XYZ" sculpture was built in Summer 2014 by students from Dalhousie University's School of Architecture. Its shape refers to the foundations and chimneys of the ruined houses in this neighbourhood. The braille panels on it list the names of the 1,963 people killed in the Explosion.

7. The house on Roome Street is where the staff tennis courts of the original Richmond School used to be. A few children lost their lives in the building; many more were killed on their way to school that morning. In the backyard of the house are pieces of molten metal, part of the "black rain" that fell that morning.

Please note that this event is being videotaped for documentation and promotional purposes, and by participating, you are consenting to our use of the material. If you don't wish to be recorded, please stay behind the camera operator.

Thank you for walking with us today. We are planning more events in the debris field during the coming year; please see the contact information below to keep in touch.

Contact Information:

<https://www.facebook.com/narrativesinspaceand-timesociety>

NISTYHZ@gmail.com

<https://twitter.com/NiSTSNS#halifaxexplosion>



NiS+TS (Narratives in Space+Time Society) is an interdisciplinary creative research group working on projects involving mobile media and walking.

Founded in 2012 and based in Halifax and Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, NiS+TS promotes the use of mobile media by artists and members of the public. NiS+TS projects are sited in spaces that are often overlooked, disused or vacant. Participants use mobile media such as GPS, smartphones and mobility tracking devices, in combination with other modes (such as walking, talking and making objects) in interactive explorations of locations and subjects.

The founding members of NiS+T are Robert Bean, Léola LeBlanc, Brian Lilley, Barbara Louder and Mary Elizabeth Luka.