

"WHAT WE HEARD"

The City of St. John's has approved a framework for its First World War Commemorative Program which will honour those who lived, fought and died in the First World War. The program consists of three key components: a legacy project, a grants program and an opportunity to offer existing programs and services around a First World War theme. As one element of the program, \$800,000 has been earmarked for the Legacy Project. Since December of 2014 the City has been carrying out a public engagement process designed to gather ideas and feedback from a variety of stakeholders regarding this project. In addition to meetings with stakeholder groups and submissions via email, we connected with the public through an event on April 1, 2015. This document outlines "What We Heard" during the public engagement process.



Stakeholder Consultations

The city has connected with the following stakeholder groups to gather ideas and feedback.

Canadian Merchant Navy Association
St. John's Military Family Resource Centre
Youth (Cadets Canada, Signal Hill Tattoo and the Church Lads' Brigade)
Bowring Park Foundation
The Association of Registered Nurses of NL
Royal Newfoundland Regiment Advisory Committee

Royal Newfoundland Constabulary
The Rooms
Newfoundland Historical Society
Royal Newfoundland Regiment
Royal Canadian Legion
Memorial University
Military Personnel



Ideas Generated Through Stakeholder Consultation



- highlight the historical relevance of City parks
- use technology to provide information- create an app for geocaching and make use of QR Codes
- include educational activities so youth will be more inclined to learn and engage
- create a scholarship or endowment for youth to promote duty and leadership (support sports, fitness and the arts)
- Fort Amherst improvements- contribute to Legacy Trail
- play a role in national commemoration efforts
- focus on more than one person or group, be inclusive
- commemorate the end of war on November 11, 2018
- have activities in schools with pictures of St. John's during the FWW- profile the typical day for a soldier
- create a memorial healing or peace garden to commemorate those who served, people could donate bricks in memory of ancestor who served
- hold a parade and day of celebration to remember lives of soldiers
- create new plaques, storyboards and statues
- consider the theme of transformation and how veterans shaped post-war St. John's
- celebrate the role of women and volunteers
- commission a FWW themed mural
- tell stories about coastal drifters and Calypso in a museum or through an interactive app
- send delegates to Beaumont-Hamel
- commemorate people such as Ethel Dickenson, Thomas Nangle, Dr. Cluny Macpherson and Tommy Ricketts
- display the names of naval ships and those who served at Harbourside War Memorial
- use a time capsule to preserve information
- incorporate 100 Portraits of the Great War

ST. JOHN'S



Public Session

On April 1, 2015 an engagement event was held at City Hall to gather public input. The following are some of the popular discussion themes and ideas that we heard.



FAREWELLS REMEMBRANCE

- the Waterfront is an important gateway
- have a war time themed sculpture situated on the waterfront
- focus on historic locations used for defense
- have story panels in more historic locations
- hold family friendly commemoration events
- build monuments where appropriate

- there are already ideal locations for commemoration around the community
- encourage people to gather in Bowring Park - emphasize the First World War connection to the Bowring brothers
- create spaces such as a garden/pavilion where people can share stories about St. John's in the First World War
- make tangible changes to important locations

COMMUNITY BUILDING

EDUCATION TELLING THE STORY

- incorporate learning opportunities in places like Victoria Park, the waterfront and The Rooms
- let people know where they can find information all around the City
- have classes at high schools and post secondary institutions
- include "active" and "passive" remembrance
- a documentary about the home front (St. John's) during the First World War
- use visual teaching and create something that "you have to see to experience"
- naming new Park in Kenmount Terrace - include educational components

- take an artistic approach to all themes and ideas
- focus on culture, families, community and togetherness
- use art to tell stories; linking the past and present
- use technology for artistic design (interpretative panels, QR codes etc.)
- identify dwellings where the first 500 lived and mark with Caribou symbol
- create arts-based scholarships and commission artwork around the City
- original music compositions related to the First World War era

ARTS AND CULTURE

Important Considerations for Project

PLACES

Community market
Parks
Signal Hill
Fort Amherst
The Waterfront
Neighbourhoods

STORIES

St. John's as a gateway
Individual Sacrifice
"St. John's Boys"
Families, impacts, homefront
The Fighting Newfoundlander
Shaping a post-war St. John's

THINGS TO INCLUDE

Storyboards
Gun restoration in Victoria Park
Peace, Memorial Gardens
Military Museum
Technology
Work from local artists

Next Step: Following additional research a project recommendation will be made to Council and final project decisions will be made. These will then be communicated to the public.