



CANADA
MINISTER
OF
PUBLIC WORKS

Ottawa, February 25, 1954.

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.

Dear Tom:

I was interested to receive your letter dated February 13th enclosing a clipping referring to a strange accident which took place at Waverley some years ago.

Following receipt of your letter I made enquiries of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys and learned that the accident took place on July 25th, 1935, whilst workers were engaged in clearing the site of the old Acadia Powder Company of any residual nitroglycerine. For your information I am enclosing, herewith, a copy of the Annual Report of the Explosives Division of the Department of Mines for 1935 and I would direct your attention to an account of the accident given on page 9 of this report.

If you should desire any further information with respect to this accident perhaps you might direct an enquiry to Mr. W.P. Campbell, Chief Inspector of Explosives, 238 Sparks Street, Ottawa.

Yours sincerely,

Robert H. Winters.

Encl.

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J. R. WHITE, GENERAL MANAGER
TORONTO

TELEGRAPHS

STANDARD TIME

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THOMAS H RADDALL=

:LIVERPOOL NS:

LIVERPOOL, N. S.
PHONE 95

=HAVE YOU YET HAD ANY INSPIRATIONS RE NAME FOR FERRY STOP
REGARDS=

:ROBERT H WINTERS=

1235P..(

September 9th, 1954

Hon. Robert H. Winters,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Bob,

Thanks for your wire. I've been mulling over some prospective names for the new ship, and here are a few suggestions.

GENERAL WOLFE. ADMIRAL BOSCAWEN. LOYALIST. JOSEPH HOWE.

GLOOSKAP (the name of the ancient god of the Micmacs, who, according to their legend created Nova Scotia, made his home on Blomidon, created the Micmac tribe, and long presided over the country and its people.)

PESCAMA (the name of a lake in North Queens. It is also the Micmac word of welcome, "Come in.")

GOVERNOR MASCARENE or PAUL MASCARENE. (This was the wise and humane Huguenot who served as a British officer at the final capture of Port Royal in 1710, and took an increasingly prominent part in the government of Nova Scotia until he was superseded by Cornwallis in 1749. He defended Fort Anne bravely and well against various French and Indian attacks, and held the trust and friendship of the Acadian people. His patience and humanity might have averted the expulsion of the Acadians had he remained in office, but that was not to be. One of the finest characters in Nova Scotia history.)

MADAME LA TOUR or MARIE LA TOUR. (The outstanding heroine of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick history. Her husband Charles had trading posts at Cape Sable and at the mouth of the St. John river, where they suffered the hostility of La Tour's trading rival Charnisay. Finally the fort on the St. John was besieged by Charnisay with an armed force. Charles was absent, and Marie took charge of the defence, inspiring her little band with the force of her own magnificent spirit. The attack was beaten off, but through the treachery of a Swiss sentinel Charnisay later succeeded in getting into the fort and taking it by surprise. Marie La Tour was compelled to stand with a halter about her neck while every man of her garrison was hanged before her eyes, and within three weeks she died of a broken heart. Her full name was Marie Jacquelin de la Tour.)

With my best regards,

Sincerely,



CANADA
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October 6, 1954

Dear Tom:

I was saddened to read in the Halifax newspaper of the plane crash that claimed the life of your young nephew.

It is realized what a sad blow this has been to the members of the immediate family, and I should like to extend heartfelt sympathy.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert H. Winters.

Mr. Tom Raddall,
Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.

March 1st, 1955

Dear Bob,

I find that I shall have to give up my appointment to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board. This is due to an unexpected and drastic change in my work schedule for the next twelve months.

The novel on which I have been working will be finished in May, and I must then tackle the third volume of the Doubleday Company's History of Canada series, which they have persuaded me to write, and for which I have just signed a contract with a deadline set in April 1956. It means that I must spend this summer in research, so that I can begin writing in September.

As you know, the active responsibilities of a member of the N.H.S. Board fall almost entirely in the summer months, the best time for investigating the various sites that have been suggested, and for the actual erection of monuments and plaques and the arranging of appropriate unveiling ceremonies. With my new writing commitment I cannot give the necessary time or thought to these matters, and I hasten to advise you now while there is still good time for another man to take over the appointment and deal with the summer's affairs.

I am writing a formal letter of resignation to Mr. Lesage, of course.

With regrets and good wishes,

Sincerely,

The Honourable Robert H. Winters,

Ottawa, Canada.



CANADA
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March 7, 1955

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N.S.

Dear Tom:

I was very sorry indeed to learn from your letter of March 1st that you will be unable to continue as Nova Scotia's representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. I was sure that you would lift the level of the Board and instil some new ideas and vigor into it. However, I quite appreciate your position. Earning a living comes first, especially when this can be done in such an interesting field as yours.

Perhaps you won't mind giving a little thought to an appropriate replacement and let me have your views at an early date. As you know, I am rather anxious to get away from the atmosphere that surrounded Dr. Harvey and his associates. I'd like to get a little bit more of a mundane approach to this whole problem and bring Canadian history within the reach of the rank and file of the citizens of Canada.

I think the next appointee should come from a constituency other than our own, and I would be glad if you would keep that in mind when casting about to find a suitable successor for yourself.

I hope your new contract and your commitment under it prove to your liking. You have my best wishes.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Bob

Robert H. Winters

March 17th, 1955

The Honorable Robert H. Winters M.P.,
Minister of Public Works,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Bob,

With regard to your letter of the seventh, I have been searching my mind for a possible successor to the appointment as Nova Scotia's representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. The difficulty is to find a man who has a good grasp of the history of the province, the ability to meet the public and if necessary to make a speech here and there, and the necessary tact in dealing with the various demands (many of them crackpot) which pour in by the mail. The post also requires a man who is free to move about, investigating the sites, checking the actual building of the monuments, and arranging appropriate unveiling ceremonies. Such a man (or woman) is rare, as you can guess.

I realise your point about Harvey. He was conscientious and meant well but he had spent his whole life in the somewhat musty atmosphere of the Archives and he had lost all touch with human realities here and now. I ~~first~~ found that out long ago when I first went to him with regard to material for my first historical novel. However it would be wrong to judge all archivists by poor old Harvey.

I have in mind his assistant at Halifax, Doctor Bruce Fergusson, a very different sort of man. Fergusson is young (about 35) and will undoubtedly succeed Harvey as chief archivist when the old chap retires in a year or two. He served as a sub-lieutenant in the Navy during the late war, got his Ph.D. afterwards, and having a keen interest in Nova Scotia history he took the post as Harvey's assistant. His whole outlook is as fresh as poor Harvey's mind was closed. He is a goodlooking chap with a pleasant personality, lots of energy, knows how to meet the public, how to talk about history without being dull, and has plenty of tact. Added to all this is the important fact that he is centrally located for dealing with various matters about the province, and has the facilities for checking the facts close at hand. These are definite advantages, as I have discovered in my own brief experience with the Board.

To my mind Fergusson is the ideal man if he would take the post after Harvey's gloomy talk about "this thankless and onerous task".

Sincerely,