



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the Committee of the Whole

**From:** Sandra Clancy, Director of Corporate Services

**Meeting Date:** November 7, 2016

**Subject:** Report CPFS16-038  
Issuing of Income Tax Receipts to Commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 2017 and Restore the  
Cenotaph

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend that Council approve the issuing of income tax receipts for donations made to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 2017 and to restore the Cenotaph in Confederation Park.

## **Recommendations**

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CPFS16-038, dated November 7, 2016, of the Director of Corporate Services, as follows:

- a) That commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vimy Ridge on April 9, 2017 and restoring of the Cenotaph in Confederation Park be deemed to be in the City of Peterborough's interest.
- b) That the City accept donations, issue income tax receipts to donors and deposit all monies received in the Cenotaph Trust Fund held by the City, to be used to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vimy Ridge and to restore the Cenotaph.
- c) That a Capital project be created for the restoration of the Cenotaph.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no direct budget or financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report. By accepting recommendation b), Council is leveraging its ability to issue tax receipts for the purposes described in this report.

The current balance in the Cenotaph Trust Fund is \$19,352.

## **Background**

### **The Cenotaph**

The cenotaph is located in Confederation Park in the City of Peterborough and was dedicated as a War Memorial in 1929.

In 1981, following the completion of Operation Cenotaph, a restoration program for the City's War Memorial, Branch 52 of the Canadian Legion turned over to the City surplus funds from the restoration campaign which became the Peterborough Cenotaph Trust Fund. The interest accruing in the trust fund is to assist the City in maintaining the monument in perpetuity. At that time, the City passed By-law 1981-144 which created a Cenotaph Maintenance Advisory Committee to oversee the fund. The committee is made up of a member of Council, a ratepayer from both the City and County and a representative from each of the three military service clubs.

The original by-law has been revised several times since 1981 and the current iteration, By-law 10-025 added an appointee of the Municipal Heritage Committee to the complement. The powers of the committee have also been expanded to include oversight of the Wall of Honour as well as the War Memorial. The committee's tasks include:

- Directing the proper inspection and maintenance of the Cenotaph Precinct in accordance with current conservation practices;
- Performing all obligations as trustees of the Peterborough Cenotaph Trust Fund, including directing the investment and utilization of the Peterborough Cenotaph Trust Fund;
- Making all decisions concerning the Peterborough Cenotaph Trust Fund, and
- Granting permission for organizations to use the Cenotaph Precinct for public assembly beyond those activities coordinated by local veteran's associations.

The War Memorial is inspected every second year by a qualified conservator who undertakes routine maintenance on the bronze figures and reports on any areas of concern regarding the masonry base. While the bronzes are in excellent condition, the granite base has been repaired many times as it is subject to chronic settling. In 1994,

a major project was undertaken to lift and rest the platform and stairs. In 2010, the stone had again begun to settle and were re-pointed without lifting them. That repair work has now failed and there is clear evidence of active settlement. Some additional history on the maintenance of the granite base is included as Appendix A to this report.

### **The Project**

In the spring of 2016, the Cenotaph Advisory Committee authorized staff to seek the opinion of a qualified mason to provide a cost estimate on the repairs required. The report is pending.

In addition to the restoration of the base of the Cenotaph, there is an initiative underway to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vimy Ridge which takes place on April 9, 2017.

The commemoration would include a service at the Cenotaph. Donations will be accepted to sponsor the creation of 580 white trilliums, costing approximately \$35 each, that will be placed on the mound, one trillium for each city and county resident Killed in Action, in the Great War. There would also be 20 red trilliums for those that were killed at Vimy and Hill 70.

Donors can sponsor the creation of the trilliums and/or make a donation to restore the cenotaph. The trilliums will be sold after the event, with the funds going into the Cenotaph Trust Fund to also assist in the cost of the restoration.

### **Donations and Issuing Official Income Tax Receipts Policy**

The Donations and Issuing Official Income Tax Receipts Policy #032 was approved by Council on September 30, 2013, through Report CPFS13-013 dated September 23, 2013. The Policy permits the City to issue official income tax receipts if the project is deemed, by Council, to be in the interest of the City.

To comply with the Policy, the following steps will be taken in accepting donations for this project:

- Donations will be made to the City directly;
- Staff will deposit the donations to the Cenotaph Trust Fund, and
- Staff will track the use of the funds for the purpose of the commemoration and restoring the Cenotaph.

## Summary

Under the Donations and Issuing of Official Income Tax Receipts Policy, the City can issue income tax receipts to donors who sponsor the creation of trilliums for a service to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vimy Ridge and/or make a donation to restore the cenotaph.

Submitted by,

Sandra Clancy  
Director of Corporate Services

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Attachment:

Appendix A  
Peterborough Cenotaph: Maintenance History of the Granite Base – May 2016

# **Appendix A**

## **Peterborough Cenotaph: Maintenance History of the Granite Base**

Prepared by Laura Wickett  
May 2016

### **Introduction**

The Cenotaph is a nationally significant memorial designed by Walter Allward and is the centerpiece of Confederation Square, the central civic space in the city. Dedicated in 1929, it has undergone several renovations in the past 80 years.

Confederation Square had an earlier public use as the town's only burial ground (1825 - 1851), then as an agricultural park (1875 - 1877) and finally as a park. By the mid 1840's, the original burial ground had grown short of space. Town Council then closed the burial ground on August 8, 1851. Some of the remains interred in the cemetery were transferred to other cemeteries, however, many remains were also left in place.<sup>1</sup>

The memorial is comprised of two monumental bronze statues resting on a platform of large granite stones forming a circular base.

The purpose of this report is to assemble as much information as possible about the history of repairs to the granite platform and its construction. This will inform the investigation and restoration work which is needed to resolve the current problems of failed mortar and widening joints, which suggests the foundation underneath the base may be shifting or eroding.

### **Construction**

Information about the construction details of the granite platform is limited. Most of the historical records on file are concerning the bronze statue components of the memorial, and not the granite base. Recently, there has been some discussion regarding whether or not the memorial has a concrete foundation, or is built only on compacted sand.

The original construction drawings by Walter Allward provide little detail regarding the construction of the circular granite platform. Scans of Allward's drawings showing a general plan and section view of the memorial are found at the end of this report, as well as a detail of Allward's technical drawing on how to set the bronze figures in place. It shows the use of concrete underneath the bronze base.

Although a single stone step was lifted during repointing work in 2010, there is no mention of whether or not evidence of a concrete foundation was found – there is only a description of highly compacted sand. However, a newspaper article from June 28, 1928 (during construction of the memorial) references the installation of a concrete foundation:

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<sup>1</sup> See Confederation Park Designation Brief.doc

“The appearance of the concrete base for Peterborough’s war memorial in Confederation Square has been criticized by a number of citizens. It should be understood, however, that this concrete foundation will not be visible when the work is completed. It is merely there to carry the weight of the memorial proper, and will be completely covered by a terrace of sod.”<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, a letter from an accountant to a banker dated Sept. 1928 stated that the contract for the concrete work had been sub-let to a Mr. Deere, and that he should be paid for his work.<sup>3</sup> This indicates that the cenotaph most likely has some type of concrete foundation.

### **Chronology of major repairs**

**1970s** – Joints were repointed with an inappropriate mortar with a high Portland cement content.<sup>4</sup>

**1979** – Bronze plaques were installed on the faces of the granite plinths to replace the original inscriptions in the stone which had eroded badly, possibly due to sandblasting.

**1992** – A report by conservation consultant Martin Weaver notes that the granite base shows no particular problems, although the pointing in the joints is beginning to crack and fail.<sup>5</sup>

**1994** – The City issued a call for proposals due to the following issues:

“The steps and platform of the Cenotaph are presently not shedding rainwater due to improper slope. It is likely that settlement of the steps and slabs of the platform has taken place over time as a result of subsidence in the underlying support material. The city wishes to correct this deficiency and therefore the contractor shall provide all labour, material and equipment, as necessary, to remove and reset the existing granite steps and slabs of the platform to ensure positive drainage and a minimization of any future shifting of the steps and or slabs in accordance with the following specifications.

1. All works shall be carried out in a good workmanlike manner.
2. All steps and slabs are to be reset so as to provide proper drainage of rainwater away from the centre of the Cenotaph.
3. Sand or acceptable substitute is to be used to establish a firm base for the stonework. All compaction is to be to 95% standard proctor density.
4. Grout is to be a suitable outdoor jointing compound similar to the existing grout.
5. All sodded areas disturbed by the contractor are to be restored using 6” of stone-free topsoil and No. 1 nursery sod.
6. All work on the Cenotaph including the landscaping must be completed no later than September 30, 1994.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Peterborough Examiner. “Sod to Cover Concrete Base.” June 20, 1928. See Designation file.

<sup>3</sup> N. L. Martin. Letter to G.H. Thompson, September 20, 1928. See Designation file.

<sup>4</sup> Erik Hanson. Memo to Patricia Burnside re: Final Report - Cenotaph Monument Restoration Program. March 12, 2011. Repair Grant Final Report.pdf.

<sup>5</sup> Martin Weaver. October 12, 1992. Martin Weaver conservation report.pdf.

<sup>6</sup> B.J. Poulton, City Engineer. Letter to Stephen MacPhee, Manager of Purchasing. July 7, 1994. See Cenotaph Reports/Photos File.

Stonework on the Cenotaph was completed by Hamersma Masonry at a cost of \$9,640.00.<sup>7</sup> No records were found mentioning any findings made about its construction. However, on May 25, 2016, Erik Hanson called Weity Hamersma, who oversaw the 1994 stonework to ask what he remembered. Weity recalled the following:

He believes there was a concrete foundation, though he didn't see it. They lifted part of the stairs around the perimeter of the cenotaph. It was noted that there was much more erosion of sand underneath the stones than they expected. They had to add much more gravel and sand than they expected in order to fill in the void. Sometimes they would use a crowbar to help push the sand down and occasionally the crowbar would push through into what seemed like a void. Because of this, Weity speculated that the sand underneath the cenotaph was migrating into graves which remain underneath it. The graves in the park are known to be shallow, possibly less than three feet down.

It is thought that cemetery remains were hastily removed from the Cenotaph area at the time that the Cenotaph was being constructed in 1928. Perhaps the empty graves were not filled in with enough solid earth. If this is what happened, this could explain the recurring instability of the granite base.

**2009** – Many of the mortar joints had eroded and in some cases vegetation was growing out of the cracks. In advance of major repointing work planned for spring 2010, temporary repointing was undertaken in the fall by Emily Kszan to reduce the tripping hazard on the granite slabs. A soft mortar was used to enable easy removal in the spring.<sup>8</sup>

The condition of the base is described in the city's call for proposals:

"The mortar in the joints between these stones has eroded over time. Several attempts have been made to re-point the masonry including Portland cement-based mortar and synthetic caulking. At this point the modern repairs have failed in many places and the joints are devoid of any setting material at all.

There is now a reasonable concern that freeze-thaw cycling and frost jacking will begin to accelerate the deterioration of the masonry. There is also a concern that the stones may have been set using iron dogs or cramps that may crack the stone as they decay."<sup>9</sup>

**2010** - In May of 2010, Upper Canada Stone House Group (UCSHG) undertook to repoint the large granite base, including the steps, platform and plinth blocks on which two monumental bronze figures rest. The company lifted a single stone step to inspect the sub-bed and determine the extent of settlement. It was determined that the stones are laid on a bed of highly compacted sand. It was the opinion of the masons that while there was some settlement of the stones on the platform, the sand was stable but fragile and a major intervention was not recommended.

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<sup>7</sup> Cenotaph Maintenance Advisory Committee Minutes, Tuesday, October 4, 1994. See Cenotaph Reports/Photos File.

<sup>8</sup> Jennifer Guerin. December 9, 2009. Cenotaph repointing\_PACAC newsletter article.doc.

<sup>9</sup> Erik Hanson. Letter to Alexander Gabov, August 12, 2009. Conservation of Sculptures, Monuments and Objects.doc.

Therefore, the decision was made to forego lifting the platform stones and focus on sealing the masonry joints through a thorough re-pointing program. The granite had been re-pointed in the 1970s with an inappropriate mortar with a high Portland cement content. The mortar was cut from all joints and replaced with a traditional mortar properly gauged to the stone.<sup>10</sup>

**2015** – The mortar was failing, with some stones appearing to be shifting away from the centre, as evidenced by widening joints. The joints were caulked in the fall of 2015 as a temporary measure until a full repointing can be performed.

## Sources

All electronic files are located within the HPO folder of the City of Peterborough's F drive.

Designation File – 501 George St. N – Confederation Square. 1983-158. Hard copy located in the files of the Heritage Preservation Office.

Cenotaph Reports/Photos File 22.322.008. Hard copy located in the files of the Heritage Preservation Office.

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<sup>10</sup> Erik Hanson. Memo to Patricia Burnside re: Final Report - Cenotaph Monument Restoration Program. March 12, 2011. Repair Grant Final Report.pdf.

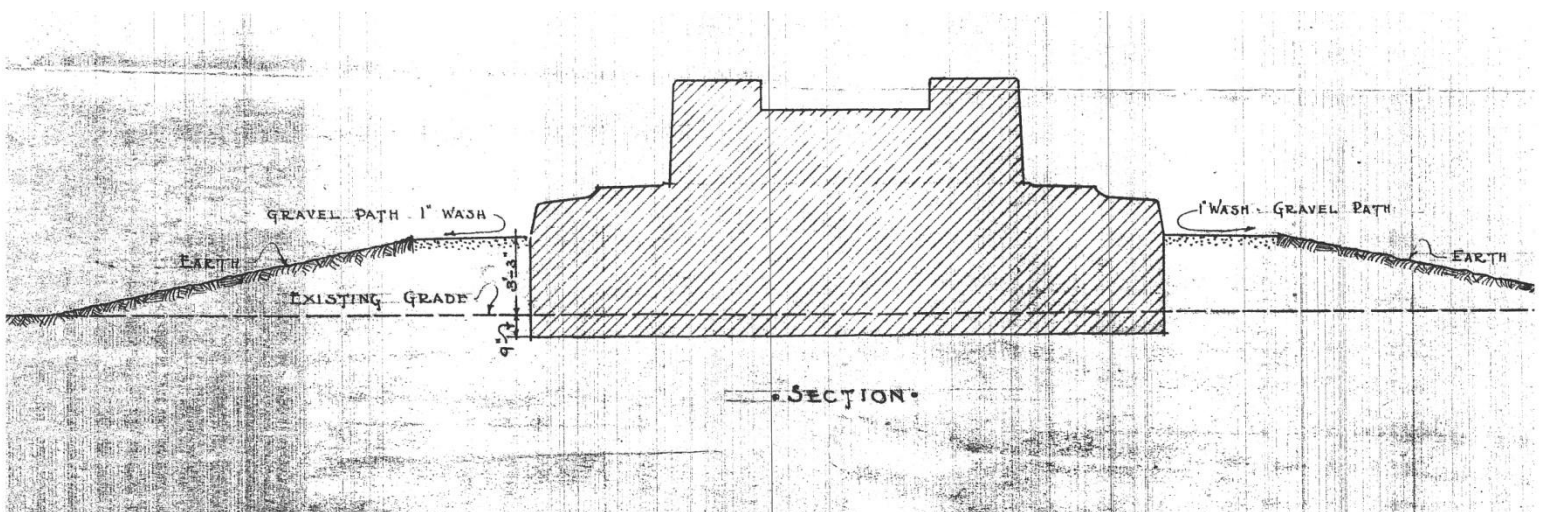
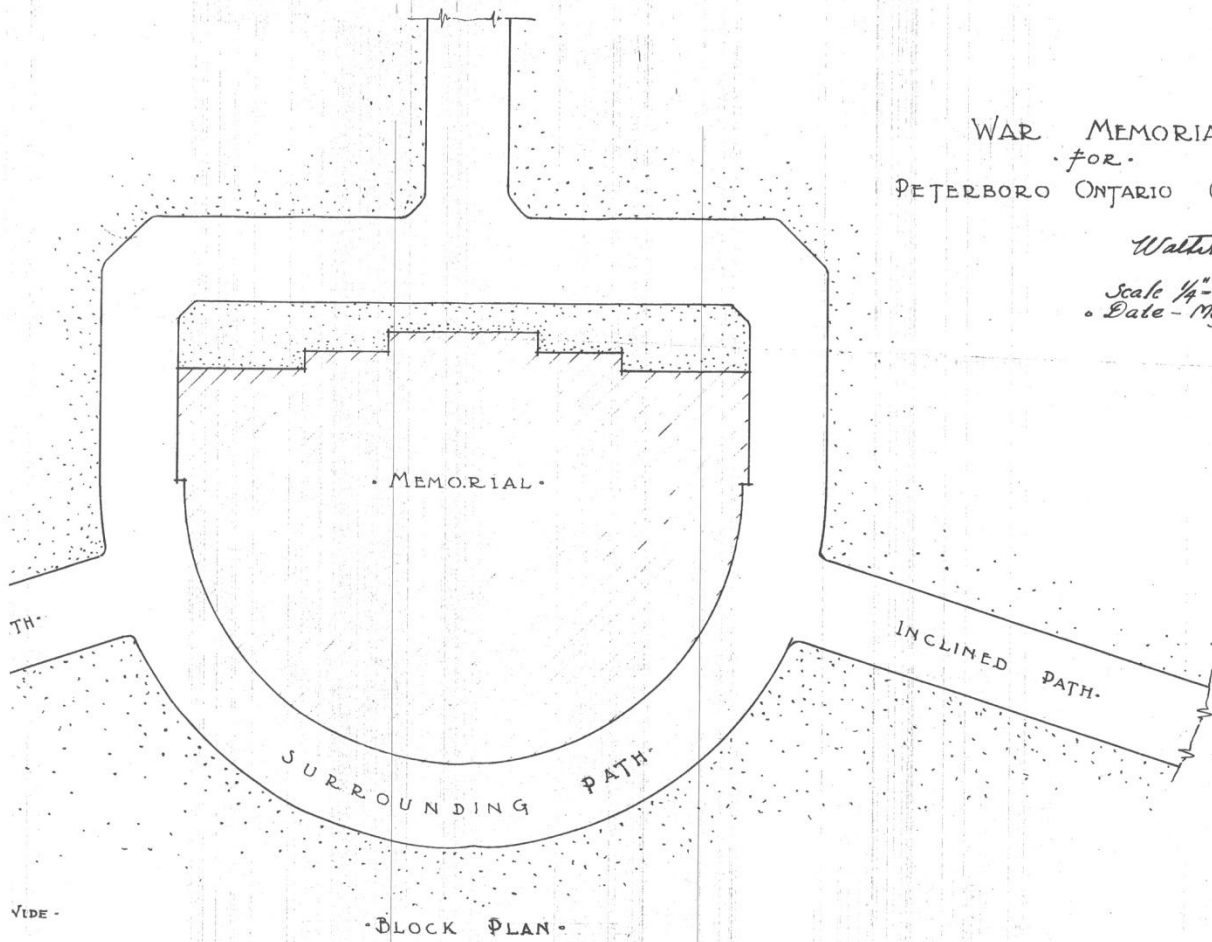




Photos of the Cenotaph from 2004.

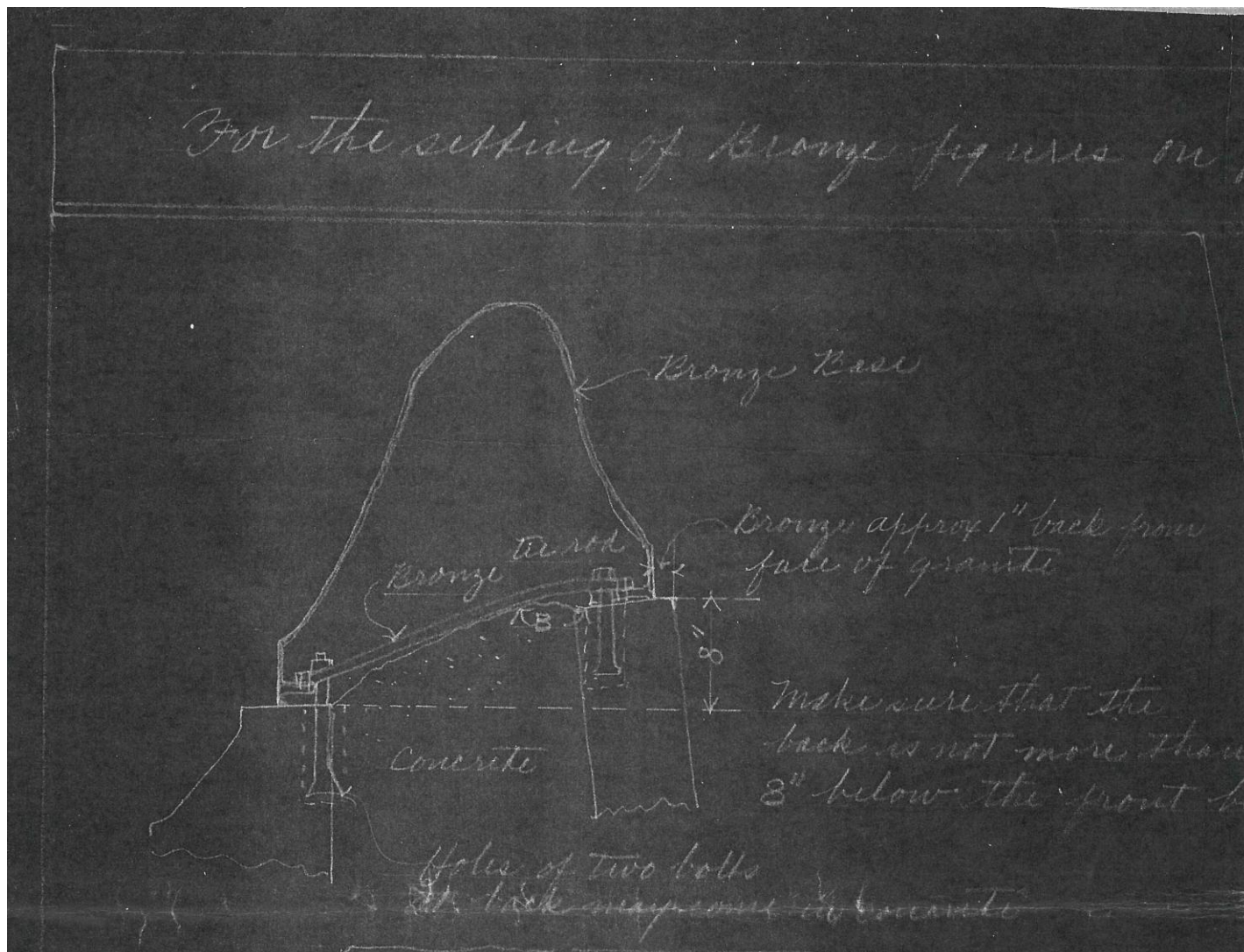
WAR MEMORIAL  
for  
PETERBORO ONTARIO CANADA

Walter S. Alward  
Sculptor.  
Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1 Foot.  
Date - May 26 - 1927.



Plan and section drawings by Walter Alward, 1927.





Detail from Allward's technical drawings illustrating how to set the bronze figures in place.  
1928.