

NS Remembers Legacy Society

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ties affected by the tragic shooting event in April 2020, in and around Portapique, Nova Scotia.

A group of interested citizens is working with a Colchester County law firm and accounting firm to legally establish the organization and apply to Canada Revenue Agency to have the organization recognized as a registered charity.

While the exact uses of the funds will be further discussed and determined, a steering committee has been formed to discuss the priorities listed below. These ideas may be modified, changed and/or added to:

Educational: Financial support for children of those lost,

in the form of payment toward their post-secondary education, the creation of scholarships in memory of the victims to support youth in the affected communities as well as other scholarships, bursaries and educational supports.

Community Development: Financial support for organizations in and around the communities most affected by the tragedy for activities and programs aimed at growing the social, economic and identity of the community. This element would focus on the West Colchester area but could also include the other affected communities.

Memorial: Develop and construct one or more permanent memorials.

Coordinated Wellness, Emotional and Grief Support: For

families of the victims as well as other affected individuals and communities. This would ideally involve collaborating with community and other agencies or entities to provide grief counseling support, group services and other services and events to support the long term needs of those affected.

The organization will be managed by a volunteer board composed of recognized and respected community and business leaders primarily from Colchester County but not limited to such and may

also include members of the victims' families.

Ward says, "It will take some time to establish the organization and obtain charitable status. As a result, we are accepting and seeking commitments or pledges to make donations, to be paid once the organization is formed and has obtained charitable status. Pledge forms can be requested by email from: novascotiaremembers@gmail.com

For further information, please contact Tiff Ward at tiff.ward2@gmail.com.

My Thoughts On The Tragedy

Our faith in our people, our province, our beliefs
A madman came and stole them, like a thief
We believed in innocence, trust and beauty
Growing up knowing, community and kindness was our duty

One April night it all came to a bitter end
22 lives taken, tragedy that we cannot comprehend
Our hearts are broken, shattered on the ground
But in the darkness, empathy and compassion, gather round

The Nova Scotia spirit, crushed but not destroyed
For we know, in times like this, it must be employed
In pain and disbelief, we reach out to one another
To fiends, neighbors, or county and futher.

Fro near and far, come sympathies, to help soothe our souls
Small heart felt patches, to help fill the gaping hole
Our beautiful sunsets, a message from above
Like a rainbow, a promise of God's continuing love.

A stairway to heaven, we could see in the sky
Rest easy, their souls have been lifted on high
This act of insanity can never define who we are
For what is Nova Scotia, shines on, like a star.

We have love and goodness, people filled with caring
Reaching out with gestures and words, giving and sharing
Our province may be poor when it comes to the economy
But we are so very rich when it comes to humanity.

Nova Scotia, here in the hardship it braves
Nova Scotia, here in the sound of wind and waves
Nova Scotia, here facing the difference of seasons
Nova Scotia, strong, because caring is the reason.

The tides come in and the tides, they go
Let them, each day wash away our woe.

Brenda MacLeod, Debert, NS

The Broken News

(in memory of those Colchester County has lost)

It, all for a few moments
seems so far away,
in another community,
another province,
another country.

And then in another few moments
it is right there
in our stomachs,
our hearts,
and then down our cheeks.

It, deserved of such a description
I will not say otherwise
other than
it has paused the tides.

Chad Norman, April 20, 2020, Truro, N.S.

Clinging to Sunsets...

This I started writing in my sleep....

"Dear God, I can't sleep
Why did you take all those souls to keep?
And I can't pray
Why did everything have to happen that day?
On we go ...Trying to make sense, is not working for me.
Just way too sad...
This sure ain't the world, that I want it to be.
Emily should be playing her fiddle in this sun.
And Lisa should be with her kids, having some fun.
Heather would be helping some poor needy soul.
Heidi back on duty in her policing role.
Lillian out walking, her dog at her side.
Greg and Jamie dancing, with love you can't hide.
Now we're so badly shaken, it's hard just to breathe.
Struggling to accept it, and there'll be no reprieve.
Not finding answers, No, there's no peace for me yet.
Just a few moments of beauty in those red sunsets.
Our lives are shattered badly, up and down the shore.
For the people that we lost and the devil at the door.
We don't feel safe, we've no control, just like a sitting duck.
What is this life? a gamble? You either lose or you're in luck."

Mona Scott, Londonderry, NS



#NovaScotiaStrong

The Shattered Shore

"The tide went out and the tide came in.
It didn't even know what was happening.
The sun still rose and that night it would set,
On a day in our life that we'll never forget.

The word got out fast and we were all in such shock. The fires and the shootings was our only talk. Suddenly this virus got pushed to the side, like some kind of cakewalk, we could take IT in stride.

A part of our world so peaceful and serene, Was now home to a scattering of murder scenes.

As the names trickled in, it became so surreal.

We didn't know what to say, it was hard just to feel.

A numbness, confusion, a fog of disbelief, followed shortly thereafter by deep sorrow and grief. Our neighbours, our cousins, a teacher, dear friends. Terror comes calling and their world suddenly ends.

Everyone touched in one way or another. Some losing their mother, husband, father or brother.

A sister, a niece, aunts and uncles, their wife. Each one of them innocent and so full of life.

The sons and the daughters of our cherished land. Then an officer who bravely took her last stand.

We can't even gather to mourn and pay our respects. We only have social media to help us connect.

All across Canada, the love has been shared. So many kind gestures, support from everywhere.

The tributes, the donations, the songs and the poems.

So many living away... that still call this their home.

How long will we suffer in this heartache and misery?

Alas there's no way to know, how long it will be.

We are strong, we are fierce, we are proud of our blue noses.

We must overlook the thorns and splendor in the roses.

Mona Scott, Londonderry, NS

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"Everyone stay safe & remember to help your neighbour."