Geraghty, Carol

From: DeCicco-Best, Anne Marie  
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 4:05 PM  
To: Geraghty, Carol  
Cc: Branscombe, Nancy; Bain, Kevin  
Subject: FW: London participation in the Virtual Vigil project

Tuesday, October 28, 2008
4:05 PM

From: Ian F. Leach  
Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2008 3:49 PM  
To: DeCicco-Best, Anne Marie  
Cc: Branscombe, Nancy; Bain, Kevin  
Subject: London participation in the Virtual Vigil project

Anne Marie,

I am writing to follow up on my telephone call earlier this afternoon to your office.

To begin with, my apologies for this inquiry coming from the blue, and for its timing, but I learned of the above project only by reading today's Globe & Mail and wasn't sure where to direct the inquiry.

The "Virtual Vigil" is a project being organized by the National History Society, and being funded by Veterans Affairs, to mark the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War. In London, England, (at Canada House in Trafalgar Square, where the Queen will attend the initial projection), and in numerous other cities across Canada, the names of those from Canada who were killed in the war will be projected individually, in succession, in a suitable public place, from dawn to dusk, starting at dusk on November 4th and ending at dawn on Remembrance Day, November 11th. Each name will be projected for eight seconds. The project will start at the same time locally each night, so that families can use the website search engine to learn when a particular name will appear.

Here is a link to a news wire release describing the project, and indicating some of the other Canadian cities that are participating: [http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/October2008/24/241.html](http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/October2008/24/241.html).


I have spoken with Deborah Morrison, who is co-ordinating the project at/through the Society's office in Winnipeg. She confirmed that it is not at all too late for additional cities, such as our London, to participate. The organizational needs are relatively few, and very straightforward. In essence, the Society will provide appropriate computer software, (on disk), and the local organizers then need to run that, at the proper times, via a computer and attached projector...shining the names on to an appropriate site each evening; (e.g., from the window of a nearby secured site). They can offer various software to make the names large, long and thin, tall and narrow, etc., to facilitate shining it on various surfaces, at whatever required/desired size and configuration. (In Ottawa, the names are going to be projected onto the national cenotaph, where the names will be small enough to fit on the cenotaph. In Toronto, they're going to be projected on to Old City Hall, where the display will be quite large and prominent. What they need, and have been hoping for, is an expression of local volunteer interest to help implement this locally. Deborah indicated that all inquiries go through her office, and that mine was the first call about the possibility of doing this in London, so it seems that no other steps have been taken as yet to run the program here in London.

There apparently isn't any requirement that the program be run locally through local municipal governments. In other words, the Society would welcome a private citizen or business simply volunteering to run with this, and project the names somewhere with a view to having them seen by others. However, I think, and expect you will agree, that it would be best if the municipality supported this, so as to run the projection in a suitable public

2008-10-28
place.

The Society is leaving the selection of location up to local organizers, but hopes that it will be a prominent place where the public not only can/will notice it, but also where families can gather at the appropriate time if they wish.

I am happy to help with this in any way I can, and Deborah already has provided me with the contact information for the Society’s tech people, who help as needed/wanted.

However, I am hoping that you and others at City Hall feel able to endorse and support this project as needed. To that end, I was able to speak this afternoon to Councillor Nancy Branscombe (simply because she is the councillor for my ward), as well as Kevin Bain at the City Clerk’s office, (to whom I was directed by your assistant), in order to provide them with a similar explanation of the project. (I therefore am copying both with this email.)

Nancy and Kevin both indicated that it might be possible to raise this at a Board of Control meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning.

In any event, I would be grateful if this inquiry could be redirected as appropriate, in the hopes that we can find a way to make it happen. It really does sound like a wonderful idea.

Again, I’m happy to do whatever I can to assist.

Thanks and regards,

Ian

Ian F. Leach
Lerners LLP
Box 2335, 85 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON, N6A 4G4
CANADA
Tel: 519-672-4510, ext. 6377
Fax: 519-672-2044

This email may contain confidential and/or privileged information and any rights to confidentiality and/or privilege have not been waived. Please notify us immediately if you have received this message in error.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.
2008 Projection Vigil 1914-1918 - Backgrounder

After 8 years planning and preparation, R.H. Thomson and Martin Conboy will coordinate and present the projection of the names of the 68,000 Canadians who lost their lives during Canada's participation in the First World War. This projection "Vigil" is not only an act of remembrance but also a calling into life again of each of the young men who lost their lives during the horrendous battles of 1914-18, who are arguably, the ones who helped to form Canada as an independent nation. The Vigil is also an act of personalizing the monuments dedicated to these men and their actions. "Lest we Forget" must have true meaning as well as metaphoric resonance.

The driving notion behind the projection of the Vigil is that all people are affected and scarred by war, not only as a collective but as individuals who suffered the loss of life and as members of families and communities lost to those left behind. The scar of loss runs deeply through a civilization but it can never truly be remembered until it is personalized, felt and named. Thus, the projection of the names of the dead is deeply affecting as ritual because each individual is witnessed: each father, each brother, each cousin, each ancestor - all those who have for so long remained collectively nameless.

The idea of projecting names onto the war memorial was an extension of the work that Martin Conboy and artist Barbara Cuerden had been doing in the early nineties. This work comprised the projection of imagery and text onto architectural exteriors such as the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

As part of his work as a lighting designer, Martin Conboy was asked to provide lighting for the War Memorial in 1990. In 1998 when the Canadian National Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was being planned he was again approached by PWGSC and NCC to light the Tomb and relight War Memorial. As part of this project the notion projecting the names of soldiers of both world wars onto the Tomb and War Memorial was explored. This idea proved technically unfeasible because at the time the equipment necessary was cumbersome, expensive and required greater amounts of electrical power than was available at the War Memorial site.

In 2000 Thomson and Conboy worked together on a theatrical production of Thomson's The Lost Boys - a play re-enacting the family letters bequeathed to R. H. Thomson. These very personal letters spoke of the experiences of Thomson's family members during the First World War. The production entailed the use of projected image and text to support the play's narrative. Congruent with this, Martin Conboy began the process of conceiving lighting for the Vimy Memorial in France.

The Lost Boys was again restaged in 2002 for a Canadian tour and it was during this period that Martin Conboy and R.H. Thomson began discussions about the possibilities inherent in the rededication of the Vimy Monument using the ideas they had developed - images and text - during their work together on The Lost Boys. Both were drawn to the notion of "including" in the rededication of the Vimy Monument the names of the men who participated in the Vimy action.
In 2004-5, the idea was presented by Conboy and Thomson to Veterans Affairs Canada under the name of Vimy Vigil. This vigil was to include the projection of the names and faces of the Canadians who participated in the battle onto the stone of the Vimy monument itself. The Vigil would include the descendants of those who were killed, reading the words of their relatives who had actually fought on the ridge. The vigil was proposed as part of the re-dedication of the Monument in 2007. For various technical, financial and scheduling reasons this did not happen.

Rather than abandon the Vigil, conversations with VAC and R.H. Thomson resulted in a scheme of conducting a simultaneous ceremony in Ottawa. This ceremony would see projected onto the National War Memorial in Ottawa the names of the 3,598 Canadians who lost their lives during the Vimy action in April 1917.

The Vigil was conducted on the National War memorial on the night of the 90th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge. The participants in the Ottawa Vigil were Martin Conboy Lighting Design; R.H. Thomson; Ecentricarts; the National Capital Commission and the sponsor Veteran Affairs Canada.

The Creators of Vigil 1914-1918

Vigil 1914-1918 arose through the groundswell of support by individual Canadians. Each November 11th, the war dead are remembered as a collective. Martin Conboy and R.H. Thomson wanted to acknowledge them as individuals. With this in mind they approached VAC for funds to create a vigil to honour each of the 68,000 Canadians killed in WWI - In 2007 Conboy and Thomson had created the Vimy Vigil which projected the names of 3,598 Canadians who were lost at Vimy Ridge. The public response was so strong to the Vimy Vigil that they decided every Canadian killed in WWI should be witnessed in a similar way.

Conboy and Thomson joined Together with Canada's National History Society (CNHS) and the web company Ecentricarts, and created the concept of a national vigil on the 90th anniversary of WWI. The team envisioned this vigil to taking place simultaneously in Ottawa, across Canada and in Europe. VAC provided the funds to create and produce the vigil in Ottawa. Private fundraising was initiated to produce the vigil in Trafalgar Sq, UK. Individual Canadian cities were encouraged to produce the vigil with their own resources. CNHS created a schools initiative involving students across the country in activities related to the vigil.

Martin Conboy is a renowned lighting designer with a background that includes direction, producing, scenic and design. He has credits for over 150 productions in Dance, Theatre, special events, light shows and many site specific light art installations.
In architectural lighting, he has worked on projects with design firms across Canada, and
government projects in Canada and abroad. The latter includes the Canadian National
War Memorial in Ottawa and Vimy Memorial in France.

RH Thomson is one of Canada’s foremost actors/directors has received national awards
over his 30 year career.

In 2001, RH Thomson wrote and performed a highly personal play, The Lost Boys, based
on letters written home by his five great-uncles who fought in WWI. Its television
version delivered his second Gemini Award. In 2007, he co-created and produced the
Vimy Vigil in Ottawa with Martin Conboy, for Veterans Affairs Canada.

Canada’s National History Society is a Winnipeg-based charitable organization
established in 1993 by the Hudson’s Bay Company with the mission to promote greater
popular interest in Canadian History, mainly through its publishing programs. The
Society publishes Canada’s second oldest magazine, The Beaver: Canada’s History
Magazine, which began as a newsletter for HBC in 1920. It also administers the
country’s top history honours: The Pierre Berton Award; and the Governor General’s
Awards for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History.

The organizers wish to thank the Canadian High Commission in London, the
Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the National Capital Commission and the
Canadian War Museum. For further information on Canadians in WWI please link to the
Virtual War Memorial at www.vac-acc.gc.ca or go to www.cwgc.org ,
www.historysociety.ca or www.warmuseum.ca

For more information please contact:
Martin Conboy (613) 569 4845 – principal@martinconboylighting.ca
R.H. Thomson (416) 537 2306 - rhrh@sympatico.ca
THE PROJECTORS

For the large scale exterior Vigils the projectors will be provided by Mediaco.

- Weight: varies 150 – 200 lbs.
- Mains power requirements: 200 – 240 volts
- Power consumption: 3600 – 5000 watts.
- Lamp type: 3000 watt xenon.

Smaller indoor Vigils may use smaller and in some cases "domestic" projectors. The brightness required (measured in lumen output) is dependent on interior site conditions.

A second projector is essential to provide back-up in the event of projector failure. A loss of projection time of 15 minutes will result in missing up to 180 names.

THE COMPUTER

Hardware:

- processor / memory: Intel Core Duo 1.8GHz processor (or equivalent); 2 GB of RAM (more is OK)
- video: card supporting 1920 x 1080 resolution in 32-bit color (to drive projector at highest resolution for 2.3 : 1 ratio templates) 64MB of VRAM (more is OK)

Operating System:

These versions of Windows plus browser (which must have Flash plugin installed) are minimums. Higher versions are OK

- OS: Microsoft Windows Vista
  browser: MS Internet Explorer 7+, Firefox 2.0+
- OS: Microsoft Windows XP (prefer Service Pack 2 or 3)
  browser: Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0+, Firefox 2.0+

Flash browser plugin:

- current version is Adobe Flash Player version 9.0.124.0

A second computer is essential to provide back-up in the event of computer failure.
THE SCHEDULE AND CREW

The Vigil runs for seven consecutive nights starting at sunset on November 4 and ending at sunrise on November 11.

Basically the start time of each evening is around 5:15 PM and finishing around 6:30 AM. Final start and finish times have yet to be determined.

We recommend one qualified projectionist per shift.

Each shift is eight hours with a half hour overlap at 11:30 PM.

The first shift is 4 PM until midnight.

The second shift is 11:30 PM until 7:30 AM.

This provides for an hour before and after the run of each evening for prep work.

We would also recommend that you carry out a mock-up prior to the event to ensure clarity and brightness of the names and images.

Final set-up should take place not later than November 1 giving three full evenings of technical rehearsal and last minute co-ordination.

I hope that this information is a helpful starting point. Please feel free to contact me with any questions of a technical and logistical nature.

Thanks,

Scott Windsor

Technical Director

VIGILE 1914 – 1918 VIGIL
Martin Conboy Lighting Design
Suite 300 - 75 Sparks Street
Ottawa - ON - K1P 5A5
Office: (613) 233-6135
Cell: (613) 371-1585
scott@martinconboylighting.ca
http://www.martinconboylighting.ca
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Crew</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri Oct 31</td>
<td>Set-up</td>
<td>09:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Set-up crew</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Nov 1</td>
<td>Projectors Set-up</td>
<td>09:00 - 17:00</td>
<td>Projectionist x 2</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Nov 1</td>
<td>Tech rehearsal</td>
<td>17:00 - 21:00</td>
<td>Projectionist x 2</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Nov 2</td>
<td>Tech rehearsal</td>
<td>17:00 - 21:00</td>
<td>Projectionist x 2</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Nov 3</td>
<td>Tech rehearsal</td>
<td>17:00 - 21:00</td>
<td>Projectionist x 2</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues Nov 4</td>
<td>Show shift 1</td>
<td>16:00 - 24:00</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues Nov 4 - Wed Nov 5</td>
<td>Show shift 2</td>
<td>23:30 - 07:30</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Nov 5</td>
<td>Show shift 3</td>
<td>16:00 - 24:00</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Nov 5 - Thurs Nov 6</td>
<td>Show shift 4</td>
<td>23:30 - 07:30</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs Nov 6</td>
<td>Show shift 5</td>
<td>16:00 - 24:00</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs Nov 6 - Fri Nov 7</td>
<td>Show shift 6</td>
<td>23:30 - 07:30</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Nov 7</td>
<td>Show shift 7</td>
<td>16:00 - 24:00</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Nov 7 - Sat Nov 8</td>
<td>Show shift 8</td>
<td>23:30 - 07:30</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Nov 8</td>
<td>Show shift 9</td>
<td>16:00 - 24:00</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat Nov 8 - Sun Nov 9</td>
<td>Show shift 10</td>
<td>23:30 - 07:30</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Nov 9</td>
<td>Show shift 11</td>
<td>16:00 - 24:00</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Nov 9 - Mon Nov 10</td>
<td>Show shift 12</td>
<td>23:30 - 07:30</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Nov 10</td>
<td>Show shift 13</td>
<td>16:00 - 24:00</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon Nov 10 - Tues Nov 11</td>
<td>Show shift 14</td>
<td>23:30 - 07:30</td>
<td>Projectionist</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues Nov 11</td>
<td>Strike</td>
<td>06:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>Strike crew</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>