

The aftermath of the Explosion called for taking care of survivors, identifying and burying the dead, reconstruction of buildings and houses, etc. Among the key players of that time were a number of men who were also members of the *Halifax Council 1097, Knights of Columbus*. **Archbishop McCarthy**, himself a charter member, immediately calls upon Ottawa to offer substantial assistance, while the following are illustrative of acts by other members:



Archbp. E.J. McCarthy



DR. W. D. FINN
Past Grand Knight



Dr. T.W.P. Flinn



Hon. R. G. Beazley



W.M. Gosoe

- (1) **Hon. R.G. Beazley**. Charter member; PGK 1907-08, PSD 1912-13. Following the explosion the City appointed him to the Executive [in charge of Fuel] of the 'Halifax Relief Committee.' On April 26, this became known as the **Halifax Relief Commission** which lasted until 1976. Beazley eventually became Chairman as illustrated by some correspondence of years 1948 and 1949 available on-line.
- (2) **Dr. William D. Finn**. PGK 1909-10. First Medical Examiner for the province of Nova Scotia. In that role he was responsible for examining and issuing death certificates for Titanic victims (April 1912) and then (1917) the Explosion victims. In 2012 a new forensic crime centre for Nova Scotia was opened and named after him –attesting to the high regard in which he was held.
- (3) **W.A. Monaghan**. In 1917 the Council, through Columbus Club, owned the very impressive **Keith (Columbus) Hall on Hollis Street**. Monaghan is Chairman of the House Committee at the time of the Explosion and he immediately offers the Hall as one shelter which could accommodate 150 survivors. (*The Gazette*).

(4) J.O Campbell. On Jan 7, 1918 the GK on behalf of Council thanks Campbell 'for his untiring efforts on behalf of the occupants' (explosion survivors) of the Hall. E.g., he could have been instrumental in arranging a Christmas party for the children of which we have two photos ... <into archives Founds 1244 item 626>

(5) Dr. T.W.P.Flinn. Charter member; PGK 1912-13, 1913-14, 1917-18. 1923. He was also thanked for his attention to the 'inmates' of Keith Hall. He had a medical practice on Morris Street and would have been more than capable to assess the condition and needs of the survivors. (There were also two valuable nurses on premises, G. Miner and J. Parker, to which the Council 1097 gave gold watches at Christmas.

Within two hours after the explosion, wounded persons were being brought to Columbus Hall. Many of those lived, slept and ate there until more permanent quarters could be secured for them and the building was used for relief work until May 1918. The late Dr. Flinn was unremitting in his attention to the sufferers and all labors were given free of charge. [The Gazette, October 11, 1923]

Dr. Flinn passed away in 1923 and it was recommended that a large photo of him should hang in the Council chambers- attesting to the high regard in which he was held.

(6) W. M. Godsoe. PGK 1918-19. He oversaw Council activities at this time and had conversations with clergy as to how the Council could contribute financially to temporary repairs at St. Joseph's Church....

(7) Re. Msgr Charles E. McManus. Joined the Council in about 1931, later State Chaplain (1935-36). He had been president of Saint Mary's College 1914. And would later be rector of Basilica. He was the priest, along with pastor of St. Joseph's, to officiate at Catholic service for Explosion victims. This took place at Chebucto School December 17th.

(8) Columbus Boulevard. This is one of ten streets in the Hydrostone District. [see 1918 'Plan.'] Whatever the historic reason for this name-choice, it can also be taken as a *permanent reminder* of the many charitable actions taken by members of Council 1097 after that terrible incident in 1917.

Children at Christmas time in Columbus Hall, a photograph that appeared in the *Halifax Herald*, December 1917. 'Columbus Hall the handsome headquarters of the Knights of Columbus, 63 Hollis Street has been very generously used as a place of shelter, irrespective of religious denomination to those who have a need.' The Knights of Columbus offered room to accommodate 150 people in emergency shelter



For more information about Halifax Council 1097, contact Grand Knight, Paul MacNeil @ (902) 455-0383
Email: kofchalifax1097@gmail.com and visit NS websites at: www.scotiaknights.ca or www.kofc.org

Knights of Columbus, Halifax Council 1097

Established March 26, 1906 and celebrating over 110 years of Catholic community service.

[ca. Year 1923] HALIFAX COUNCIL 1097, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS,
Officers and Members in front of *Keith (Columbus) Hall,*
65 Hollis Street Halifax, N.S. (renumbered now as 1475 Hollis).



*Halifax
Explosion
(1917)
Children
Shelter
by
K of C
Keith
Hall*

Thompson Bld

ights of Columbus

byall, Halifax

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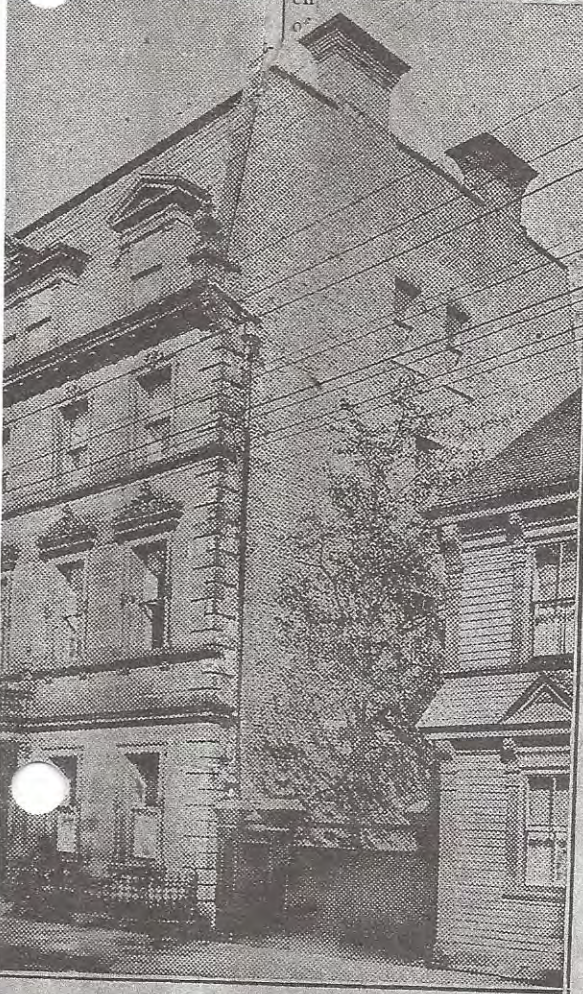


Photo by Gauvin & Gentzel

in the Council
cent paintings,
and other decor-
ralls. The softly
tuated the hand-
the ladies, but
endance was, the
were ample, and
the Knights were
their splendid
ghts were show-
d wishes for the
ouncil in its fu-
have been fully
shown by the
he Council since
the year 1911
re-qualification of
of new
The mem-
today is 341.
**THE KNIGHTS
FAX.**
fax Knights re-
scholarships

and every year hereafter eight new
scholarships will be offered for
competition by examinations to be
held at every point in Nova Scotia
where a Council of the Knights of
Columbus is in existence.
For many years the Knights have
offered a gold medal for competition
among the students of St. Patrick's
Boys' High School, thereby showing
their interest in secondary educa-
tion.
One of the cardinal principles of
Columbianism is the practice of
charity. Halifax Council has done
much to assist brothers in distress.
Only this summer the sum of \$150
was raised as a benefit fund for a
brother who is ill and unable to
work. Thanks to this generous ac-
tion the brother in question is now
well on the way to recovery and the
Knights now have a scheme on foot
whereby they will assist him in es-
tablishing a business of his own.
For years the Knights have in a
quiet way helped poor families in

this city at Christmas. A collection
is made among the members, and
articles of food are purchased and
delivered to many needy families.
The Council has also assisted finan-
cially in the work of caring for un-
der-nourished school children. The
total amount expended by the Hal-
ifax Knights on charity runs into
several thousand dollars.

When the Halifax Explosion oc-
curred in December, 1917, the first
public building in Halifax to be of-
fered for relief purposes was Colum-
bus Hall. The prompt action of the
Knights in this connection was
largely due to the late W. A. Mon-
aghan, then chairman of the House
Committee of the local Council, who
proceeded to the City Hall and
placed the club house at the disposal
of the sufferers. Within two hours

after the explosion, wounded persons
were being brought to Columbus
Hall. Many of those lived, slept
and ate there until more permanent
quarters could be secured for them,
and the building was used for relief
work until May, 1918. The late Dr.
Flinn was unremitting in his atten-
tion to the sufferers, and all
labors were given free of charge

Entertainment.

Every year Columbus Hall is the
scene of many pleasant entertain-
ments, the chief being that of Oc-
tober 12th, Columbus Day.

The Hall has a well equipped and
comfortable reading room, beautif-
fully finished double parlors, a large
card room, a billiard room with two
tables and a canteen. On the grounds
at the rear of the building there are
two quoit beds.



Union Hotel
W. E. Mackie, Prop.

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Fountain and
Tobacconist**

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1 to 3 George St.
HALIFAX, N. S.

like Horse shoes



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and
Dominion Atlantic Railway
Watch Inspector

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line of K. of C. em-
blems.

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Halifax.



"Good Taste In Men's Dress"

"Personality"—the well groomed man

1917 Halifax Explosion and Council 1097

Minutes Jan. 7, 1918, Monday, 8:30 p.m.- New Business

G. Knight [*W.A. Godsoe*] read receipts and disbursements of K of C Relief Fund and..motion from Bros...Lynch and J.O. Campbell actions of GK in disbursements of said Fund be ...(passed)...motion of Brothers J. Maloney (?) and J.O. Campbell at..of Relief Fund left to... of Ex. Com (passed) on motion of worthy Treasurer Wakeley and J.O. Campbell. **"This Council authorizes relief committee, out of funds called K of C relief fund, to assist St. Joseph's Parish in any sum said Council deems advisable in the temporary reconstruction of this (St. Joseph's) Church property."** The GK tendered the thanks of this Council to.. W. A. Monaghan (Chairman of [*council's*]House Com.) forethought in offering our quarters to the [*Halifax*]Relief Committee. The GK also tendered thanks of the Council to Bro. J. O. Campbell for his untiring efforts on behalf of occupants of [*K of C*] Building. Letter of thanks read from Messrs. Minor and Parker and Bro. WR Wakeley gave voice of motion that **cost of watches for nurses at Xmas be paid out of Council funds.** On motion of J.M. Mahoney and J.J.... it was decided to place an additional \$9,000 insurance on [*council's*]Building made payable to Council. /death of Rev. W.A. Lovett (*departed*) is only member of Council killed in disaster. / [good of order] GK read letters and telegrams from Councils of Moncton, St. John, Quebec , Montreal.

New Business, Minutes Jan. 21, 1918 (p. 13) GK tendered the thanks of Council to PGK Flinn for attention to inmates of [*council's*]building. GK also tendered thanks to the Ladies who assisted with Xmas tree and also to Bro. Wm. Monaghan for securing Xmas tree. GK reported interview with Fr. McManus re temporary repairs to [*St. Joseph's*]Church. He offered to donate material for roof or 1/10 cost of building \$]300.00. Moved and seconded that all contributions received would be acknowledged thru Columbiad. *Passed.*

add Nov. 8, 1918. Explosion Acc't.

*(K of C)
Hall
?
Messrs.*