



## Memorial Design Chosen!

On May 17<sup>th</sup> at the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa, Arif Virani, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage and MP for Parkdale–High Park, on behalf of the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, unveiled the winner of the design contest for the memorial.

Created by Team Raff, *Arc of Memory* is a sculptural array of bronze rods configured into a gigantic arc. The design is intended as a dynamic living calendar that would commemorate moments of suffering and injustice that eventually resolve into reflection and gratitude.

Team Raff includes: Paul Raff, Artist and Architect, Paul Raff Studio Incorporated; Michael A. Ormston-Holloway, Designer and Certified Arborist, The Planning Partnership; Brett Hoornaert, Landscape Architect, The Planning Partnership; Luke Kairys, Landscape Architect, The Planning Partnership. (*cont'd on next page*)

## Tribute to Liberty Needs Your Assistance!

We are finally close to achieving our goal, a Memorial to Victims of Communism in our Nation's capital, Ottawa. The memorial design has been chosen, the location decided upon and in early May 2017 Tribute to Liberty transferred its first installment of \$1,000,000 to the National Capital Commission. Our final installment of \$500,000 is due in September 2017. To be able to receive the federal government's matching funds of \$1,500,000 Tribute to Liberty still needs to raise \$200,000. Therefore, we are reaching out to ask our supporters and donors to generously assist us in raising the remaining necessary funds. Please see the end of this newsletter for more information.

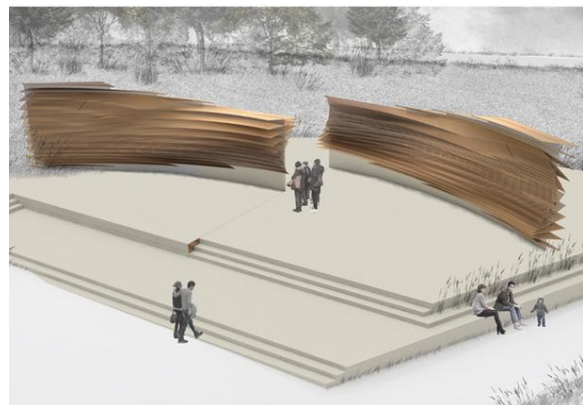
Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian organization whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of Communism in the National Capital Region.

Tribute to Liberty's Newsletter is published four times a year. If you would like to add an email address to our subscriber list please email [info@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca).

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[www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca)



Team Raff winning design

(cont'd from previous page) "I am confident that this design will honour the millions of Canadians who fled injustice and suffered under repressive communist regimes. This memorial will be a tribute both to those who fled and to the Canadians who welcomed them into our beautiful country," Mr. Virani said.



Arif Virani addresses the audience

"Memorials are an essential part of our national landscape and serve as important gathering points for Canadian events and Canada's citizens. Canada, our home, opened its arms to generations of people from around the world that came seeking refuge from the pain and suffering inflicted by communist regimes. Now, through this uniquely Canadian project, we will commemorate every day, month and year of our ancestors' lives, pay homage to our fellow Canadians, and above all, pay tribute to liberty by commemorating those who provided an opportunity for a better future in the free and democratic society in which we live," said Tribute to Liberty Chair Ludwik Klimkowski.

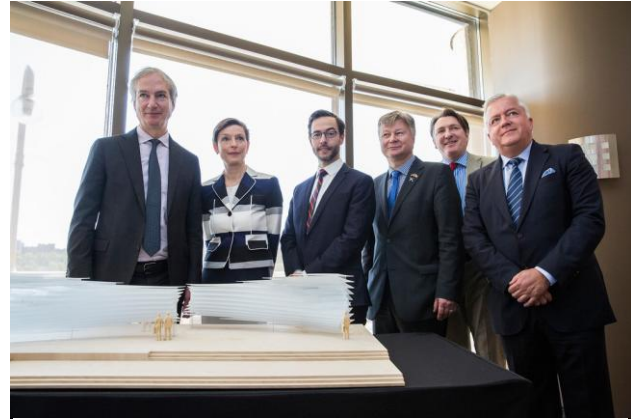


Ludwik Klimkowski with Arif Virani

The *Arc of Memory* features two gently curving wall-like metal frames totalling 21 metres in length and almost 4 metres in height. The walls support more than 4000 short bronze rods densely arranged along 365 steel fins, each one pointing at a unique angle of the sun, for every hour of every day, across a year.

The memorial would be split in the middle at winter solstice, the darkest day of the year, inviting visitors to step through in a metaphorical journey from darkness and oppression to lightness and liberty.

The *Memorial to the Victims of Communism – Canada, a Land of Refuge* is scheduled to be completed in 2018.



Artist and Architect Paul Raff, Ambassador of Estonia Gita Kalmet, Designer and Certified Arborist Michael Ormston-Holloway, Ambassador of Latvia Karlis Eihenbaums, Minister Counsellor Embassy of Lithuania Julijus Rakitskis, and Ludwik Klimkowski

Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, says of the chosen design: "*Arc of Memory* is an evocative concept that has taken an abstract theme and made it personal and accessible to all Canadians. I wish to congratulate all the design teams for their commitment and vision. I would also like to thank the expert jury, who had a very difficult decision to make."

The Department of Canadian Heritage is developing this project on behalf of Tribute to Liberty and in partnership with the National Capital Commission. At the same time the design winner was announced, Tribute to Liberty announced it has transferred the first installment of \$1 million for the project.







## Polish Students' Group Raises Funds for Memorial

At the end of March, PISK, Polish Students' Initiative of Canada, donated \$1,000 to the memorial. PISK President Michael Kustra said the group was “inspired” to help contribute to the memorial.

“As Polish-Canadian Students, either born here in Canada or in our home country of Poland, we all have

a tie to communism. With many of our families escaping to Canada, we have all endured the hardships brought to us through communism.”

“For me personally, my parents would tell me stories of Food Stamps, and times when “Martial Law” was declared. There were times when my parents would go to the store, and there would be no food available. My mother immigrated to Canada with 20\$ in her pocket to start a new life. Half a year later, she sponsored my dad with his visa to allow him to join my mom in their new home in Toronto. Soon after, I was born in Canada, and very lucky to have escaped communism. My parents did not know any English, and were learning the same time that I was learning in pre-school. But they have managed to be the lucky ones and escape communism to start a new life. I am sure, most young Polish-Canadian Students have similar stories. We have been shaped by our history, and we need to remember these lessons.”



Tribute to Liberty thanks PISK for their generous donation.

## History Unhidden *Tragedy of Bleiburg*

A solemn commemoration at Bleiburg field in Austria on May 13<sup>th</sup> marked the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the mass slaughter of 300,000 or more Croatian soldiers and civilians killed there and on the death marches through Yugoslavia at the end of WWII. It is estimated that 700,000 people fled—500,000 civilians including women and children and 200,000 unarmed homeguards.

Immediately after the War had ended, atrocities and mass murders against Croatians and Slovenes were committed by Yugoslav dictator Josip Broz Tito's Partisans and their Communist followers when these

civilians were forcibly repatriated to Yugoslavia.

The Catholic Archbishop of Djakovo and Osijek, Djuro Hranic, said, "Bleiburg represents one of the most tragic fields in the history of our Croatian people and the beginning of the great suffering of hundreds of thousands of Croats after World War II." He added that it was still unknown where many were killed and where the mass graves and pits with victims' remains were located. Conservative estimates list the location of more than 1,000 mass graves in Slovenia and northern Croatia alone.



The work of investigators has been hampered by lack of funds, political will, and a refusal to accept that Tito's Communist regime committed such mass atrocities. Furthermore, no one has ever been tried for this crime against humanity even though human remains are being found in mass graves regularly.



Reporters estimated more than 15,000 people from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Germany, Canada, and other countries, gathered for the commemoration. Those attending included death march survivors, Catholic and Muslim clergy, representatives of the Croatian government, war veterans' associations, families and descendants of the victims. More than 62,000 people attended the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and organizers expect large numbers

for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Event to Commemorate the Bleiburg Tragedy to be held in Mississauga, May 31<sup>st</sup>

On Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm a solemn commemoration of the Bleiburg genocide will take place in Mississauga, Ontario. The event, organized by the Croatian Heritage Association, will be held at Mississauga City Hall.

This event is open to everyone, and will be in English. For more information, please send an email to [info@croatianheritage.org](mailto:info@croatianheritage.org)

Bleiburg Genocide Commemoration in Mississauga:

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Great Hall, Main Floor, Mississauga City Hall  
300 City Centre Drive

## BLEIBURG THE FORGOTTEN GENOCIDE



Join us in commemoration on Wednesday, May 31 at 7:00pm in The Great Hall (Mississauga City Hall, 300 City Centre Drive, Main Floor). For more details email [info@croatianheritage.org](mailto:info@croatianheritage.org) or call (647) 639-0234.

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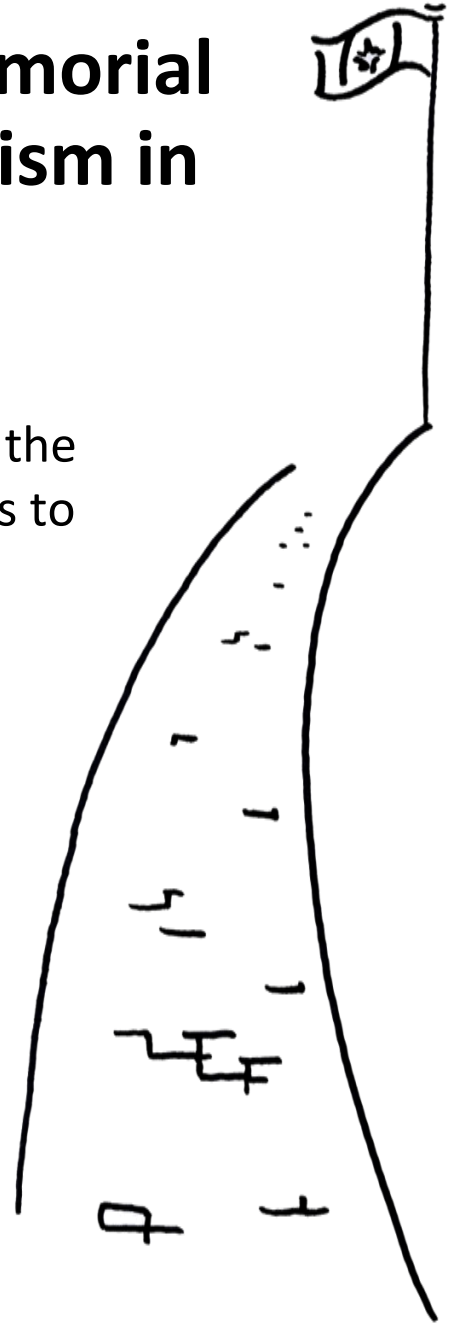
# Tell Your Story...

## And donate to the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa.

A donation of \$200 buys a brick for the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial. Each brick can be donated with a story of a victim of Communism, a message or a dedication.

Tribute to Liberty needs your donation to build this memorial, so please donate today!

*For more information about Tribute to Liberty and the Memorial to Victims of Communism, visit [tributetoliberty.ca](http://tributetoliberty.ca).*



**donate today at [tributetoliberty.ca](http://tributetoliberty.ca)**

# **Tribute to Liberty Mail-in Contribution Form**

To contribute to the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa you can:

## **1. Become a Brick Donor**

- Each brick is \$200 (you can buy as many as you like!)
- With each brick purchased you can submit the story of a victim of Communism, or a message or dedication
- Please email your story, message or dedication to [info@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca) or include it on a separate piece of paper when you mail this form
- Tribute to Liberty reserves the right to edit submissions
- **Submissions will be published on the Tribute to Liberty web site along with donor's names. Donors who wish to remain anonymous must indicate this in the space provided below**

## **2. Make a Simple Donation**

- Donations in any amount are welcome
- **Donors who wish to remain anonymous must indicate this in the space provided below**

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## **Mail-in Contribution Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish to remain anonymous:** ☐

Please make cheque payable to: Tribute to Liberty

Please mail contribution to: Tribute to Liberty

P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M6S 4Z7

**Don't forget to enclose your story, message or dedication!**

**Tribute to Liberty is a registered charity. Charitable Number: 814999660RR0001**