



# TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY *News*

*Commemorating the Victims of Totalitarian Communism*

Volume 2, Issue 3  
Summer 2010

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

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## ***Land Allocated for Memorial!***

On behalf of the board of Tribute to Liberty I am very excited to announce that the National Capital Commission has allocated federal land in downtown Ottawa for the *Memorial to Victims of Totalitarian Communism – Canada, a Land of Refuge*.

The site selected for the memorial is in the beautiful Garden of the Provinces and Territories, located at Wellington Street and Bay Street, across from Library and Archives Canada.

The site is along Confederation Boulevard, the capital's ceremonial and discovery route. It is set back from the traffic, however, along the quieter pedestrian pathways of the garden, which will allow for a more peaceful experience of the memorial. It is surrounded by flowerbeds and trees, adding to the beauty and serenity of the area. There is space for ceremonial gatherings at the site, and room for overflow.

Further, the site is linked symbolically to two nearby buildings, the Supreme Court building and the War Museum.

We wanted the site to be central, visible, picturesque, and have space for gatherings. This site fulfills these requirements, and also has that certain something that is hard to put one's finger on.

Images of the site are also available on our web site: [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca).

Alide Forstmanis  
Chair of the Board  
Tribute to Liberty





View looking out from site toward Wellington Street.



View of site from west side facing east along a pedestrian pathway.



View from east side looking west at one of the entrances to the site.

## ***GTA Vietnamese Community Raises over \$22,000 for the Memorial***

The Vietnamese Toronto Committee to Support the Memorial to Victims of Totalitarian Communism donated \$22,315 to Tribute to Liberty for the *Memorial to Victims of Totalitarian Communism – Canada, a Land of Refuge*.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Vietnamese community held a fundraising dinner for the memorial at the Bright Pearl Seafood Restaurant in Toronto. The event was attended by over 400 people. Alide Forstmanis, Tribute to Liberty Board Chair, spoke at the dinner and was presented with a cheque for the first estimate of the donation amount.

Tribute to Liberty is grateful for the generosity of the GTA Vietnamese community!



Mrs. Forstmanis is presented with a cheque.

## ***Polish Community Raises Funds for the Memorial***

A portion of the funds raised at this year's Canadian Polish Congress Annual Fundraising Dinner are being donated to the *Memorial to Victims of Totalitarian Communism – Canada, a Land of Refuge*.

The dinner was held at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre in Mississauga on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Blaine Calkins, MP for Wetaskiwin, Alberta, and Chair of the Canada-Poland Parliamentary Friendship Group, was the keynote speaker. Alide Forstmanis, Tribute to Liberty Board Chair, also spoke at the event. Tribute to Liberty is grateful for the support of the Canadian Polish Congress.

## ***Thank You Charlie Coffey***

Mr. Charlie Coffey has stepped down from his position as Honorary Chair of the memorial to victims of Communism project. Tribute to Liberty is grateful for Mr. Coffey's



contribution to the project and wishes him the best in all his philanthropic efforts.

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington***

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, Tribute to Liberty Board Chair Alide Forstmanis took part in the wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Forstmanis laid a wreath from Tribute to Liberty to commemorate the victims of Communism.

Mrs. Forstmanis met with Dr. Lee Edwards, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOCMF) Chairman, to inform him about the Canadian memorial project, and also attended a luncheon following the ceremony hosted by Dr. Edwards.



Mrs. Forstmanis with Swedish parliamentarian Goran Lindblad and a director of the VOCMF, Karl Altau.

### ***History Unhidden: Hungary, Twice the Victim of Communism***

#### **The First Time**

November 1918. WWI ended. The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy collapsed and Károlyi the IVth, the king of Hungary, abdicated and handed over power by phone to Mihály Károlyi, who became the president of the Hungarian Democratic Republic on Nov. 16, 1918.

The Hungarian Communist Party was led by Béla Kun, the former secretary to Lenin. He proclaimed the Hungarian Soviet Republic and dismissed President Károlyi on Mar. 21, 1919. This was the beginning of the first “Red Terror” for Hungary.

Quoting from the telegram about the Béla Kun government, sent from Admiral Sir Ernest Charles Thomas Troubridge (Inter-Allied Danube Commission) on Feb. 20, 1920 to British High Commissioner T. B. Hohler and

forwarded by him as a report to earl George Nathaniel Curzon, Foreign Secretary of the British Government: “I watched the revolution and its incidents with great care, having my staff officer in Budapest all the time... Béla Kun began by reporting to Lenin by radio his satisfaction that the revolution had been accomplished... bands of bad characters soon were formed under fantastic titles, such as the notorious “Sons of Lenin”... These bands were principally responsible for the murders and outrages.”

The “dictatorship of the proletariat” lasted for 133 days and ended on Aug. 6, 1919. Béla Kun escaped to the Soviet Union and in 1930 was executed in one of Stalin’s purges.

#### **The Second Time**

In 1945, the Soviet armies first destroyed Budapest. Then, the country was raped, plundered and pillaged, and with the complicity of the West remained occupied by the Soviet Union until 1990.

The Communist party, led by the escaped commissars of 1919, with Soviet support, came to power in 1948. For the next 11 years terror rained under the leadership of M. Rákosi and G. Gerő. Mass arrests, show trials, torture, mass executions, internment, and concentration camps were the order of the day for most of us.

It all came to a head on Oct. 23, 1956. We had had enough. We took up arms and made the Communist puppets and the occupying power withdraw their tanks and troops after suffering heavy losses.

For 11 glorious days we were free. Our Prime Minister, Imre Nagy, wanted us out of the Warsaw Pact. In the meantime, the West attacked Suez. John Foster Dulles, the U.S. Secretary of State, made a deal with Khrushchev: If the Soviets stay away from Suez, NATO will not interfere in Hungary.

On Nov. 4, 1956, the Soviet army re-invaded Hungary and started the siege of Budapest for the second time in 11 years, with 3,600 tanks and over 100,000 troops. We fought them with Molotov cocktails and small arms for several days, but we were overwhelmed.

I was in the newly organized National Guard. I was captured by the Soviet army, handed over to the new security service, and tortured for two days. I managed to escape and make my way to the West.

In Hungary, a new puppet government was installed by the Soviets and the bloody reprisals started. Officially, 229 fighters were hanged including Prime Minister Nagy and his officials—after they had been promised immunity. The loss of life was estimated to be 20,000 plus. 40,000 were arrested, and many of them sentenced to prison. 220,000 people managed to escape to the West. 40,000 of those came to Canada under a special program, thanks to a Mr. Pickersgill and the Canadian people. My homeland remained under Communist oppression for another 34 years.

*Submitted by Laszlo Farkas*

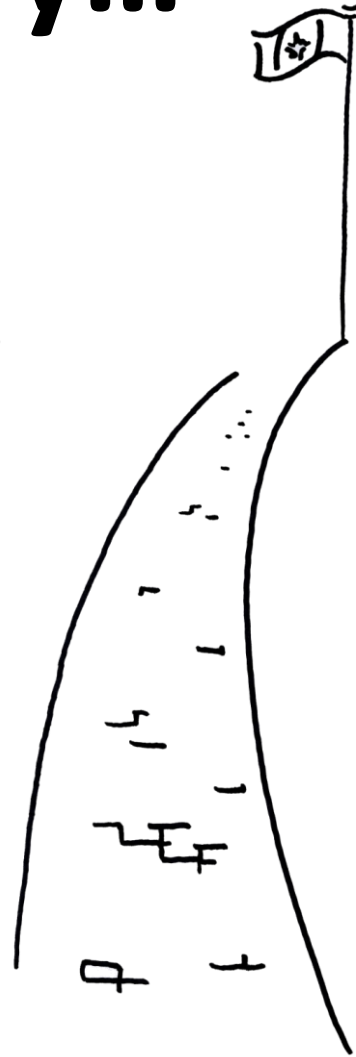
# Tell Your Story...

## And help build the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa.

A donation of \$100 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. Donate today at: [tributetoliberty.ca](http://tributetoliberty.ca).

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



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### Mail-in Contribution Form

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Donation Amount: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to remain anonymous: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to Tribute to Liberty and mail to:  
Tribute to Liberty, P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M6S 4Z7

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