

The Honourable Melanie Joly  
Minister of Heritage

I am sending to you a copy of the correspondence that I have forwarded to the Honourable Catherine McKenna for your file on the Never Forgotten National Memorial .

December 28, 2015

Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister McKenna,

I would like to share with you a series of articles that appeared in the GEOLOG Magazine regarding the proposed Never Forgotten National Memorial at Green Cove. The first article was prepared by Dr. Sandra Barr of Acadia University for GEOLOG on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. The Editor of GEOLOG graciously permitted my rebuttal for its Summer Issue in 2015. Prior to publication, GEOLOG sent my letter to Dr. Barr for a rebuttal in the same issue. I subsequently sent another rebuttal which the current Editor has refused to publish.

I am enclosing all pertinent articles for your perusal and will also forward an e-mail to the Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Heritage regarding this topic.

Please respond to this correspondence.

Regards,

Ray Stapleton  
37 Barb's Lane  
Ingonish Center NS, B0C 1L0

Attachment: Letter to Alwynne Beaudoin, Editor GEOLOG Magazine

Page 15-16

[http://www.gac.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/GEOLOG\\_43\\_Number\\_1.pdf](http://www.gac.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/GEOLOG_43_Number_1.pdf)

Page 7-9

[http://www.gac.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Geolog\\_V44\\_N2.pdf](http://www.gac.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Geolog_V44_N2.pdf)

Alwynne Beaudoin

Editor GEOLOG Magazine

First of all, I want to thank you for emailing me the GEOLOG for summer, 2015.

I would like the opportunity to respond to Sandra Barr's rebuttal to my letter. When she uses terms "I question", "in my opinion", "the beauty", "feels like wilderness", "we selected as the best", "it appears", "it is the best" and "arguably the best" she is voicing opinions and not facts.

The National Parks were not created to preserve natural beauty. Parks Canada has a dual mandate to preserve and present the cultural and ecological heritage of certain areas. The Management Plan for the Cape Breton Highlands stated that the cultural heritage of the Ingonish area must be preserved and presented. This area has a long cultural connection of service and sacrifice to Canada through the Armed Forces. During the two Great Wars, the area North of Smokey had the highest recruitment rate per capita than any other place in Canada. During World War two, nearby New Waterford, for towns of its comparative size, had the highest rate of recruitment in the whole of the British Commonwealth. Even today, Nova Scotians, who represent less than 3% of the Canadian population, make up 10% of the Armed Forces. In addition, the Park must preserve and present the stories of the First Nations, the Scots, the Irish, English, French and Metis settlers in Ingonish.

The site at Green Cove does not belong to the Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation; it is leased to the Foundation as per Parks Canada policy.

The safety of the site is undermined by the fact that in recent years a couple slipped to their deaths on Green Cove Head. You have to be very careful walking at the site and it is not accessible to mobility challenged persons despite the boardwalk that is built on the outcropping which extends from the paved parking lot to the middle of Green Head.

Please take notice of the rubble in the foreground of the photo accompanying Ms. Barr's rebuttal. The rugged, jagged facets of these rocks show that they have not been weathered for any length of time. This rubble was placed there when the roadway for the world famous Cabot Trail was blasted during construction.

Ms. Barr brings up her failure to locate the Stantec drill holes. Since she is fond of allegories, I offer her this: "If you have a toothache and you do not see it – is it still there?" Did anyone request the drill cores so that they may be used for geological investigation?

Stantec, on page 41 of its DIA, has stated that the restaurant was deleted from the report because of public objection to this proposal.

Archaeological investigation has already taken place; a shard which appears to be a cutting edge has been the only artifact found.

I have walked the trail from Black Brook to Jigging Cove on many occasions and I can report that there are many outcroppings similar to Green Cove along the shore and inland. You may be already aware of the outcroppings at Lakies Head, MacKinnon's Cove, and Bluff Head on the northern side of Green Cove.

Parks Canada characterizes the ecological sensitivity of all areas of the Park into one of five Designated Zones; two of these are Wilderness Zones- Green Cove is not in any of them. It is classified as a Zone 4 Designation the same as picnic sites, campsites, the golf course and the entire length of the Cabot Trail.

Finally, I cannot believe that a geologist of Ms. Barr's stature and worthy accomplishments would include this sentence in her rebuttal: "It is a glacially shaped and polished granite surface, kept clear of weathering and seaweed by waves and winter ice." My Grade 7 Earth Science students are quite aware of the freeze/thaw cycle, the formation of ice wedges, the physical weathering by wave action and sea ice, not to mention, the chemical weathering by sea water. And, there is seaweed and sea water in the fissures of the Green Cove outcropping.

Here is my opinion. I believe that the Geological Association of Canada should embrace the Never Forgotten National Memorial. It could provide an opportunity for the Association to present an exposition on the geological heritage of the area; it could be one of the stories told in the interpretive centre when it gets built.

Respectfully Yours  
Ray Stapleton

(Geological Association of Canada), Bucher Medal (American Geophysical Union), Wilson Medal (Canadian Geophysical Union), Gondwanaland Gold Medal (Mining, Geological, and Metallurgical Society of India), Wegener Medal (European Geophysical Union), Day Medal (Geological Society of America) and Wollaston Medal (Geological Society of London). A hero to many, he was a man of strong and interesting character - the kind of companion you would want if stuck in a storm in a Logan tent. He will be sorely missed.

Well done Ted. Rest in peace.

**Compiled by Randy Enkin**

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**A Letter to the Editor from  
Sandra Barr - Save Green Cove,**  
(submitted to *GEOLOG* on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014)

In August, 2013, Parks Canada announced that the Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation had developed a vision to create a "Never Forgotten National Memorial" as a tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for their fellow Canadians. The Never Forgotten National Memorial is to be built at Green Cove in Cape Breton Highlands National Park. It was noted in the announcement that "this rocky point of land is a symbolic setting, oriented towards Europe and the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France. Parks Canada is working with the Foundation to develop a plan to

accommodate such a memorial, which will be donated to the people of Canada upon completion."

This plan to build a huge war memorial and associated visitors' complex along a scenic shoreline along the iconic Cabot Trail in a national park is causing concern for many of us in Nova Scotia. Because national parks have been made for all of us, I think that this project should be of national concern. The purpose of this article is to bring this project to the attention of members of the Geological Association of Canada, many of whom may object to the placement of such a large and obtrusive structure in a national park, an area dedicated to the preservation of our natural heritage.



*Fig. 1a. Green Cove as it is now in winter  
(Photo credit - Lynn Baechler)*

The Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation was established in 2011 and became a registered charity in 2012. It was founded by Mr. Tony Trigiani, president of Norstar Corporation in Toronto. The targeted opening date is [July 1, 2017](#), the

day that Canada turns 150 years old. The proposed monument is a giant statue of "Mother Canada" a robed woman with outstretched arms, which would rise 30 m into the air from a rocky point at Green Cove (Fig. 1a, b). Also planned are a 300-car parking lot, a souvenir shop, and a restaurant.



Fig. 1b. The proposed monument at Green Cove (from <http://www.nfnm.ca/>)

The rocks at Green Cove are part of the Black Brook Granite Suite, spectacular rocks that form most of the eastern part of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. The suite includes a variety of granitic rocks, both pink and grey, which vary from fine to coarse and show complex cross-cutting and mingling relationships. The granitic rocks are also cut by abundant pegmatite dykes that contain large crystals of quartz, feldspar, muscovite, and biotite. They also contain inclusions of partly melted older rocks into which the granite magma was emplaced about 375 million years ago at a depth of 10-15 km. Over time, the overlying rocks were eroded away,

resulting in the wave-cut platform on which we can safely walk and see the rocks exposed today. The site is one of those included in the list of proposed geoheritage sites in Nova Scotia compiled by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, and is a popular stop for geological field trips because of the unique characteristics of the rocks and the accessibility of the site on an otherwise very rugged coastline. Green Cove is one of very few places where it is safe to walk on and view these rocks up close, rather than just seeing them as part of the scenery.

In addition to objecting to the destruction of the natural environment in a place dedicated to protecting it, many people are concerned that adequate environmental assessment and community consultation has not taken place regarding the proposed development. Environmental concerns include water supply and waste disposal at the development, and its location right at the eroding coastline.

In summary, I very much support our veterans, but a national park is not an appropriate place to locate such a monument. If you share my concern, you may want to bring your thoughts or any questions you have to the attention of Parks Canada, [information@pc.gc.ca](mailto:information@pc.gc.ca), [cbhnp.info@pc.gc.ca](mailto:cbhnp.info@pc.gc.ca), the Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation [info@nfnmfoundation.ca](mailto:info@nfnmfoundation.ca), and Sydney-Victoria MP Mark Eyking (<http://markeyking.liberal.ca/contact/>).



## Point-Counterpoint

### Green Cove Veterans Memorial

I write to you today to hopefully divulge more information on the proposed Never Forgotten National Memorial (NFM) at Green Cove, Cape Breton Highlands National Park. In many articles, Green Cove is touted as being "pristine" in nature. Every dictionary I consulted defines pristine as something being in its natural state or being unspoiled by human activity. It has been a long time since Green Cove has been pristine. Prior to the formation of the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, a fishing village, with rudimentary piers, residences, and a school were located here. Currently, there is a parking plaza adjacent to the main highway at Green Cove.

Professors Barr and van Rooyen tell us of the impressive geological history of the 375 million year old Black Brook Granitic Suite. One would think that Green Cove was the only outcropping of this geological feature; one could head north one kilometer to Mac Kinnon's Cove or hike the trail from Black Brook to Jigging Cove to see even more of the wilderness aspect of this suite. Further, the Black Brook Granitic Suite extends 15 kms north, 2 kms south and 20 kms inland from Green Cove encompassing an area of some 26,000 hectares; the NFM will compromise 0.4 hectares of this – a staggering, if not downright calamitous 0.000015384 per cent of the suite. 75% of the outcropping will still be exposed after construction of the NFM.

Aaron Schneider opines about the loss of our humanity because of the loss of the "wilderness" of Green Cove. The Green Cove outcropping is a leisurely one minute walk from the highway or an even shorter one from the wilderness parking lot. Perhaps Mr Schneider should consult a dictionary and maybe he would not resort to such hyperbole. To persons unfamiliar with Green Cove, his near-propagandistic declaration might be viewed as truth.

With all due respect to WW 11 Air Force veteran, Valerie Bird, she was able to return home; 114,000

other veterans did not. This memorial will be a concrete reminder of the ultimate sacrifice these veterans made on land or at sea where many bodies were never recovered.

Added features of the NFM will enhance accessibility for mobility challenged individuals and make the Green Cove site safer for all. The proposed guard rail will perhaps prevent another loss of life at this site.

In addition, contrary to some writers' assertions, the Foundation for the NFM will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep for the memorial. The Foundation will not own the property around Green Cove but will license it from Parks Canada. Besides the three Jack Pines that will not be compromised, there is a Jack Pine Trail near Black Brook. After public consultation the plans for a restaurant and gift shop have been set aside so as not to compete with local interests.

Stand tall and stand proud; let this magnificent monument welcome home our fallen Canadians who gave their all—not only for Canada—but for beleaguered people around the world. With all due respect to the Vimy Memorial in France, Canada's greatest memorial to our veterans should be in Canada!

I believe that the Never Forgotten National Memorial will be an asset to the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and a tremendous national tribute to those unfortunate souls who never made it home.

Ray Stapleton  
Ingonish Centre, Nova Scotia

#### *Editor's note*

This letter was received from Mr Stapleton in response to a recent Letter to the Editor from Dr Sandra Barr in *GEOLOG* 43(1):15-16, 2014. Mr Stapleton requested that "In the spirit of fairness, [he] would like to dispel some misconceptions and add additional insight you [sic] more recent developments."

### Response to the letter by Mr Ray Stapleton

I thank Mr Stapleton for expressing his opinion about the proposed Never Forgotten National Memorial (NFM) at Green Cove in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Although he is responding to my letter published in *GEOLOG* a year ago, he also mentions presentations made by me and other members of an informal group known as Friends of Green Cove (see [www.friendsofgreencove.ca](http://www.friendsofgreencove.ca)) at a press conference held at Cape Breton University on June 2, 2015. Our remarks and presentations can be viewed on that website.

I will respond point-by-point to Mr Stapleton and then close with some additional information.

First and foremost, I point out that Green Cove is within the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, established decades ago to preserve and protect the natural beauty of that unique area. Hence construction of this memorial in a national park is clearly against the mandate of Parks Canada. In my

opinion, the proposed statue and surrounding infrastructure do not represent responsible stewardship of our natural heritage. The Green Cove area belongs to all Canadians, present and future, not to the private NFM Foundation.

I have never claimed that Green Cove is "pristine". It has indeed had human habitation and activity probably going back to native inhabitants – in fact, its potential archaeological significance is one of the arguments against the proposed construction. However, the BEDROCK exposed at Green Cove headland (see accompanying photograph below) IS pristine. It is a glacially shaped and polished granite surface, kept clear of weathering and seaweed by waves and winter ice. At least, it was pristine until last fall when Stantec Limited drilled holes to investigate the engineering properties of the rocks for the construction of the proposed memorial. However, on a recent visit I could not see obvious evidence of that drilling so indeed, the outcrop is still pristine.

The geological history preserved and displayed in the rocks at Green Cove headland is indeed remarkable.







Conceptual image of the proposed Never Forgotten National Memorial as envisioned at Green Cove  
Image from NFNMF website at [www.nfnm.ca](http://www.nfnm.ca), June 18 2015



Conceptual ground plan of the proposed Never Forgotten National Memorial as envisioned at Green Cove  
Image from NFNMF website at [www.nfnm.ca](http://www.nfnm.ca), June 18 2015

It is true that it is not the only outcrop of the 375 million-year-old Black Brook Granitic Suite, but it is arguably the best – and the most accessible. I can say that with certainty because I have walked the entire coastline of the Black Brook Granitic Suite. I have also looked at the inland outcrops, which are mainly obscured by vegetation. I would be pleased to take Mr Stapleton to Green Cove headland and show him what is remarkable about those rocks, and how they differ from those at MacKinnons Cove and Lakkies Head. The proponents of the construction claim that the memorial will cover only 25% of the outcrop – I question that estimate based on the diagrams on their website, but in any case it is the best part of the outcrop. It appears that only the steeply sloping sides of the headland will still be visible but certainly no longer accessible.

I ask Mr Stapleton to consider an analogy – what if we were discussing a classic painting such as the

*Mona Lisa*, and someone proposed to paint over “just a little bit”? People who don’t have much interest in paintings would likely say “so what - there are thousands of other paintings”. Or they might say that painting over one small area won’t do significant harm. But those who appreciate and value classic paintings would, of course, strongly object. And that is what Dr van Rooyen and I, as well as the members of the Atlantic Geoscience Society have done by formally writing to the Member of Parliament for the area, The Honourable Mark Eyking, to oppose the proposed construction at Green Cove.

As to whether or not Green Cove is “wilderness” - when one sits or stands on Green Cove headland, with the sea washing around, it feels like one is in the wilderness. Any sounds from the highway are muted by waves. One is free to wander around and view the rocks and try to understand their story. That story and the beauty of the location are the reasons why my co-author (Dr Martha Hickman Hild) and I included Green Cove in our guidebook on the *Geology of Nova Scotia* (Boulder Publications 2015). Green Cove is one of 48 sites that we selected for the book as the best places to view the rocks that tell Nova Scotia’s geological story. My co-author and I dedicated our book “To the people of Nova Scotia, stewards of a unique geological heritage”. There are no doubt many alternative sites on private land where the Never Forgotten National Memorial could be built, but there is only one Green Cove.

In the Detailed Impact Analysis (DIA) prepared by Stantec Consulting Limited for Parks Canada on behalf of the NFNMF Foundation, the restaurant and gift shop are still included as part of the longer term plan for the site.

I close by mentioning that my opposition to the Never Forgotten National Memorial construction at Green Cove headland is not intended as an indication of disrespect for veterans. And I deeply regret the acrimonious conflict that this “come-from-away” proposal has caused among the wonderful people of Cape Breton Island.

Dr Sandra M. Barr  
Professor, Geologist and Friend of Green Cove  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia