

Halifax engineering feats recognized

Graving dock, Robie Street reservoir, Macdonald bridge honoured

BRUCE ERSKINE
BUSINESS REPORTER

✉ berskine@herald.ca
🐦 @CH_BruceErskine

The Halifax Shipyard graving dock, the Robie Street reservoir and the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge have been designated National Historic Civil Engineering sites by the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering.

The three feats of civil engineering were recognized by the society during its annual general meeting and conference that was held in Halifax this week.

A ceremony marking the designation was carried out at the shipyard on Friday.

The 173-metre-long graving, or dry dock, now owned by **Irving Shipbuilding Inc.**, was built in the 1880s for shipbuilding and repairs and is still in used today.

"We are honoured to have been chosen by Canada's Society for Civil Engineering for this special designation," company president Kevin McCoy said in a news release Friday.

"Our investment in upgrades, maintenance and improvements to the graving dock definitely point to the importance of this structure to our ongoing operations, and we see this continuing well into our future."

Irving Shipbuilding vice-president Peter Williams said it was fitting the dock was recognized by the civil engineering society, having survived the Halifax Explosion, both world wars and significant industry advances.

"It helped repair several thousand ships during World War II and now is repairing our navy's current combatant fleet, in the very shipyard that will construct the navy's new combatant fleet beginning in 2015."

The Robie Street reservoir, owned and operated by Halifax Water, was built in 1913. It was one of the few structures in the area to survive the 1917 Halifax



Frank Robinson, with Halifax Harbour Bridges, and Reg Andres, with the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, unveil a plaque for the commemoration of the Angus L. Macdonald bridge as a National Historic Civil Engineering site. **MITCH WARD**

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Carl Yates
General manager,
Halifax Water

largest of its type in the world at the time.

The reservoir was designated a landmark by the American Water Works Association in 1983.

"The Robie Street reservoir continues to serve the residents of Halifax," said Halifax Water general manager Carl Yates. "We look forward to many years of service from this historic structure."

The Angus L. Macdonald Bridge, the older of two suspension bridges crossing Halifax Harbour, was completed in 1955.

At the time of its construction,

it was the second longest suspension bridge in Canada and the British Commonwealth, after Vancouver's Lions Gate Bridge.

The Macdonald bridge's pending suspended deck replacement will mark only the second time that the suspended portion of a suspension bridge will be replaced while remaining open to traffic during the day.

The Canadian Society for Civil Engineers has designated 63 historic civil engineering sites since 1983.

Explosion that occurred less than a kilometre away.

The reservoir's 1945 prestressed concrete roof replacement was considered to be the

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