

The national war memorial for servicemen lost at sea, a beacon for ships entering Halifax harbour at night, will be blacked out after March 31 unless someone finds the \$1,500 a year needed to pay for the floodlighting.

The Royal Canadian Naval Association raised the money to instal the lights but says it cannot afford the cost of electricity any longer.

The memorial was built by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It stands on Point Pleasant in the park of the same name at the southern end of the Halifax peninsula.

The park commission, financed by the city treasury, says it hasn't any money to spare but will try to get the defence department to do something.

I raised this question with the Minister of National Defence and his answer was the reason for my coming here this evening. I will not dwell on either my question or his answer. I think it is rather important that this memorial be kept lighted, perhaps for the simple reason that most people do not realize what I think some would realize, that a memorial such as that for men and women who are lost at sea is their gravestone and should be treated with the utmost respect.

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, my first words will be to thank the hon. member for his kind words on my coming back to the House today. I appreciate them very much.

So far as the matter raised by the hon. member is concerned, he directed his question in the first instance to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Macdonald). However, the main point in the question is one of direct

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interest to the Department of Transport in that it suggests the possible use of a floodlit monument in Halifax as a navigational aid. The monument in question is located in the southern end of the city in Point Pleasant Park. This site is a national historic park and is administered by the parks branch of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Department of Transport has had correspondence on this subject from the directors of the Point Pleasant Park as well as from the Royal Canadian Naval Association, and it would appear that there has been an understanding between these two bodies over the years for the payment of hydro costs which has been paid by the Point Pleasant Park.

The department officials undertook a full review of this very worthy suggestion. They found that the floodlit memorial did not constitute an aid to navigation, nor would it be feasible to use it as such. I am informed that the shoal water, which stretches for roughly one mile south of the park, is adequately marked by navigational buoys. These are well known to those who navigate that area. In addition, there are other short-based lights in the region which can also be used for positive positioning.

I fully appreciate the hon. member's sincere concern in this matter. He has raised some additional points and I will be only too pleased to address them to the department for consideration.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.25 p.m.