

20<sup>th</sup> April 2009

## **SPECIALIST EDINBURGH FIRMS TO REMOVE AND STORE HISTORIC HAYMARKET WAR MEMORIAL**

The work to temporarily remove the Heart of Midlothian Memorial Monument from Haymarket Junction into safe storage will commence week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

The memorial is being removed temporarily as part of the ongoing tramworks and the next stage of the traffic management in the area provides an opportunity to carry out this task.

The removal is expected to take approximately 3 weeks and will be carried out by Stone Engineering (part of Land Engineering Group), who were involved in the construction of the McCrae's Battalion Memorial Cairn at Contalmaison, France in June 2004.

The memorial will be dismantled under the close supervision of the City of Edinburgh Council, and removed to a secure location for the duration of the works. It will be re-erected in its new agreed location at the Haymarket junction when the tramworks have been completed.

The monument's clockface will be removed by Ritchies of Penicuik and it will be held by the City of Edinburgh Council in secure accommodation.

The work surrounding the memorial has been subject to intensive consultation between the Edinburgh Tram Project and Heart of Midlothian Football Club, Supporters Federation, Shareholders Association and the McCrae's Battalion Trust.

Councillor Jenny Dawe, Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council said: 'We know just how special this monument is and every care is being taken to protect it for future generations. Once the tram works are complete, it will return to Haymarket in a prime position.'

Steven Bell, Project Director, Edinburgh Tram Project said: "This iconic monument has been an important symbol of remembrance in the Capital for many years and will play a prominent part in the new Haymarket junction. In the meantime, it is crucial that the memorial is protected from the ongoing tram works.



## **What are the benefits of trams?**

### **For you**

- One part of a better integrated transport system
- Safer – attendant plus driver
- Faster journey times
- Comfortable and accessible
- Less congestion = less pollution & noise
- Looks great

### **For Edinburgh**

- Better transport is essential to the growth of the city and attracting new businesses
- Trams are environmentally friendly
- Connects Waterfront, Edinburgh Park and Edinburgh Airport with the City Centre
- Link to airport will benefit tourism and businesses
- Trams will attract more visitors to the City Centre

"Given the nature of the memorial we were keen to involve all relevant stakeholders and I'd like to thank them for their support and patience whilst we finish the work at Haymarket."

A spokesperson for Heart of Midlothian Football Club said: "The Heart of Midlothian War Memorial is very precious to the club and many residents in and around the city of Edinburgh. We are pleased that its temporary storage and eventual relocation at Haymarket is being handled in such a sensitive manner.

"We all look forward to its relocation at Haymarket in order that supporters and city residents can once again pay their respects to those players, supporters and shareholders that made the ultimate sacrifice."

ENDS



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