

FROM: Sharon Clayton, Canada, 23 February 2016

TO: Everyone Interested in Supplying a Rock for a Balephuill Commemoration Memorial



This piece of British Columbia jade is my contribution to a proposed memorial to the fishermen involved in *Fuadach Bhail' a' Phuill* - Tiree's Great Fishing Tragedy of 1856.

Because my rock will arrive in Tiree in my suitcase, I deliberately chose a stone that is fairly small and light – it's about the same size as my hand. Those of you who don't have to worry about airline weight restrictions may want to contribute much more hefty specimens

When I spotted this mottled slice of British Columbia jade, I knew I had found *my* rock. Bill and I often see this stone's greyish-green hues during neighbourhood walks beside the Pacific Ocean.

The jade's wavy striations remind me of a stormy sea. It must have been a murderous ocean wave that tore both my GGG Grandfather John Campbell and his fellow fisherman Malcolm MacArthur out of *Donnchadh Bàn*'s fishing skiff on July 7, 1856.

My enthusiasm for a Balephuill Commemoration Memorial may or may not be contagious, but I'm hoping to inspire many of you to bring (or send) a symbolic rock from your home turf to A' Bhuain.

Whether you are connected (by blood, marriage, friendship or tragedy) to any family involved in the Fishing Tragedy, please use this Facebook page to share photos and stories about the stones you will contribute to their memorial. After it has been designed and constructed, I plan to publish the photos and stories in a Balephuill Commemoration booklet.

After the Planning Committee's March meeting, I will let everyone know where to send any stones that will not be personally delivered to the Homecoming. Once we are all together in May, we will evaluate the collected rocks and discuss ways to incorporate our stony offerings into a suitable memorial.

Until then, I'm hoping we all have three months of photographs and stories to look forward to.