

Upon hearing of the tragic loss of Bill Lamb, my thoughts went to his wife Carol Bratley and family. Then I started thinking of Charlestown. It has also met with a great loss because of Bill's total dedication to our community.

We worked together on many committees, but it was through joining the North Area Task Force some 30 odd years ago that I first got to work with Bill. During more than 15 years on that project there were so many good and respectful moments it is hard to express them all.

Let me tell you one story while working on the NATF. It was a cold winter day. City Square tunnel was under construction and the archeological dig was proceeding when my partner Dan Kovacevic and I received an urgent call from Bill: I think we were the only ones available during the day since we ran our own company and had no deadlines pressing. Bill had noticed a problem in the underground drawings and knew that if one wanted to address the engineers on this project it was best to have backup.

It goes without saying that Bill was a really good architect with a well-trained eye for detail. The issue that he discovered had to do with the smaller of the tunnel's exhaust towers. Because of his discipline, Bill had discovered the placement of this tower would create a serious traffic hazard.

The drawings placed the exhaust tower right on the corner of City Square and Chelsea Street. Yes: right on the corner. This would not allow a view of cars coming down Chelsea Street as one tried to enter from City Square.

We made our way through the cold and slush, arrived at the engineer's office and worked for many hours to show them, with Bill's guidance, how this exhaust tower could be incorporated into the development parcel. Yes, it's in there. I'm not sure if it saved lives. But I sure do know that it stopped many accidents.

Bill was a wonderful, thoughtful leader with the ability to get positive changes made for the benefit of Charlestown. One other thing: no matter what we were working on for the community, Bill took what I said with respect. For a woman in the 70's, that was not always the case. Bill treated me with respect: he was always a true gentleman.

Bill Lamb's gift to Charlestown will be seen throughout our community for many generations. He was a true talent and a gift to Charlestown.

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