



CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Chair and Members Emergency and Community Services Committee
From:	David Steckham, Chair Hamilton Veterans Committee (to be signed by the Chair)
Date:	June 12, 2017
Re:	Revised Terms of Reference for the Hamilton Veterans Committee (HVC17-001) (City Wide)

Recommendation

That the Goals and Objectives of the Hamilton Veteran Committee's Terms of Reference be revised as follows.

- Act as liaison with the City of Hamilton on all matters directly relating to or of concern to veterans of the City of Hamilton.
- Coordinate the commemoration events for significant anniversaries such as Decoration Day, Remembrance Day, D-Day, VE Day, including parades and Memorial Ceremonies.
- Liaise with appropriate City staff regarding the burial of Veterans in the Field of Honour at Woodland Cemetery.
- Provide advice and consult with appropriate City staff respecting the use and care of Veterans Place at Gore Park including, but not limited to, the respectful use of Veterans Place and the Cenotaph and the placement of wreaths.
- Maximize the engagement of youth in the act of Remembrance through projects and events.

Background

The Hamilton Veterans Committee (HVC) has been a volunteer committee of City Council since 1972.

The HVC's mandate, approved at Council May 14, 2014, states:

Reporting to Council, through the Emergency and Community Services Committee, the Hamilton Veterans Committee oversees the planning and

SUBJECT: Revised Terms of Reference for the Hamilton Veterans Committee (HVC17-001) (City Wide) - Page 2 of 2

delivery of military remembrance and commemoration activities on behalf of the City of Hamilton. When directed by Council, the Committee will provide input on projects and issues that are of concern to Hamilton Veterans.

The Goals and Objectives of the Hamilton Veterans Committee have not been updated since 2001.

Analysis/Rationale

To fulfill the approved mandate of the Hamilton Veterans Committee the Goals and Objectives need to better reflect and more accurately describe the HVC's role as an Advisory Committee to Council. The revised Goals and Objectives are attached as Appendix "A" to Report HVC17-001.

In recent years the HVC has become concerned that its activities are not well understood by the community and that as the portrait of "who is a veteran" changes the preservation of their comrades' legacy and heritage must be cultivated as a generational responsibility. It is imperative that opportunities to engage youth in remembrance and commemoration activities be developed. The Hamilton Veterans Committee's new goal to "Maximize the engagement of youth in the act of Remembrance through projects and events" fulfills this need.

The Goals and Objectives with specific changes noted are below.

- ~~Act as liaison for the veterans of~~ **with the City of Hamilton on all matters directly relating to or of concern to Veterans of the City of Hamilton.**
- Coordinate the commemoration events for significant anniversaries such as Decoration Day, ~~East End Decoration Day,~~ Remembrance Day, D-Day, VE Day, including parades and Memorial ~~Services~~ **Ceremonies.**
- ~~Administer all other matters directly relating to or of concern to Veterans of the City of Hamilton.~~
- ~~Over see~~ **Liaise with appropriate City staff regarding** the burial of Veterans in the Field of Honour at Woodland Cemetery.
- Provide advice **and consult with appropriate City staff** respecting the use and care of **Veterans Place at Gore Park**, including, but not limited to, the **respectful use of Veterans Place**, the Cenotaph and the placement of wreaths.
- **Maximize the engagement of youth in the act of Remembrance through projects and events.**

Appendices

Appendix "A" to Report HVC17-001 – Revised Terms of Reference for the Hamilton Veterans Committee