



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

10:00 a.m.

City Hall – Room 192

Present: Chair: Harry McEwen
Members: Art Tompkins, Gerry Rattray, David Steckham, Bob Fyfe, Bill Eisan, Councillor Morelli

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Merulla

Also Present: Fern Viola, Liaison, Department of Veterans Affairs
Rebecca Oliphant, Technical Staff Liaison, Minute Taker, Tourism & Culture Division
Geordie Elms, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Military Heritage and Protocol
Marie MacEachern, Event Coordinator, Tourism & Culture Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS – Moment of silence for Fallen Comrades, in particular John Clarke.

1. **CHANGES TO AGENDA**
Item 4.3 Freedom of the City will be moved to the beginning of the Agenda.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
None declared.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

(Eisan/Tompkins)

3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 8 May 2012.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 **Role & Function of Hamilton Veterans Committee**

Geordie Elms, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Military Heritage and Protocol

For future consideration - is the Hamilton Veterans Committee the right vehicle to move municipal Veterans issues forward and keep the local community engaged? Is it the HVC's role to strengthen existing organizations? How do we get the best synergy between existing organizations?

Important that there is a blending of those who have finished serving and those who are still serving.

4.2 **World War I Artillery pieces – discussion on location of restored pieces**

Update: Geordie stated the request to put pieces at Dieppe Memorial Park will probably not happen. There have been preliminary discussions as to how the City should mark the Centennial of First World War. Is it more appropriate that the placement of the Artillery pieces be incorporated into World War 1 centennial plan?

4.3 **Freedom of the City**

Guest: Geordie Elms, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Military Heritage and Protocol

Role: Member of Mayor's staff giving easier access for HVC to the Mayor. His role was created when he initiated contact with the Mayor's office after Remembrance Day 2011. He wanted to give back and raise awareness of Hamilton's Military Heritage. The Mayor does not want to be caught off guard. He wants to know when he is expected to speak and the topic but the HVC can determine what events they want the Mayor to speak at and what his remarks should include. Geordie's role is to provide background and protocol information as necessary. He does not speak for the Mayor however will carry message/issues/concerns back to Mayor. The Mayor has asked him to assist with things of particular interest to him such as: the HVC, 1812 events, Hamilton and Scourge, Gore Park Revitalization and the Welcome Home pins. A system has been developed for distribution of these pins. Council has been engaged so they contribute to the honour for the troops. Pins available now include: Afghanistan, Dieppe, WWII Europe, Peacekeeping (available in August), Korea (available next year). The Mayor's office is trying keep the program simple.

Events on the horizon – Dieppe in August, possible flag raising on August 9 and presentation of Peacekeeping pin.

Sept 15 (possibly changed to Sept 21) – Hamilton & Scourge Memorial with support from Navy.

Yellow Ribbon Dinner – hosted by the RHLI Foundation (family centre and wounded warriors).

What is 'Freedom of the City'? - not a Veterans issue but a Military issue. The City cannot issue invitations to Military events. The Commanding

Officer of military unit asks that the Freedom of the City honour be reaffirmed. Freedom of the City is a traditional Civic honour and in reality every unit in City already has Freedom of the City.

The HVC will always be invited to Civic events. Geordie will ensure the word gets passed properly to ensure their participation if required. HVC has always been and will always be invited with pride of place.

Important that we are better at getting information out to the Veterans community at large. The HVC would like to investigate ways to increase communication with existing organizations such as Her Majesty's Army and Navy which is celebrating its 150th anniversary and is the country's oldest Veterans organization.

Geordie suggested these organizations need to grab onto something that makes their group meaningful to citizens now.

It is important to note that the majority of these organizations are already represented at United Council of Veterans.

Canadian UN Veterans Association has been started under the leadership of Doug Furchner. Their temporary home is at the RHLI hall. (Kosovo, Afghan not UN veterans.)

The Hamilton Veterans Committee should not hesitate to ask the Mayor's office for assistance if help is needed for things like Remembrance Day services.

4.4 Calendar of Veteran's Events (Invitations/Advertising of Veterans Events)

Update: Need to strike a Calendar Sub-committee as directed at November 8, 2011 meeting of the Hamilton Veterans Committee.

David corresponding back and forth with the Royal Canadian Legion. The latest correspondence doesn't actually say yes outright for use of the poppy image but permission is assumed as they have supplied the appropriate poppy image and asked that the disclaimer that it is the RCL's copyright be included.

The calendar has been updated with dates for the Hamilton & Scourge Memorial and RHLI anniversary events.

Staff to make arrangements to have the calendar (in PDF format) loaded on the HVC webpage.

4.5 Veterans Parking in Hamilton

Update: Ted Arnold, Manager, Parking Operations and Maintenance, will attend the September 11, 2012 meeting.

4.6 2013 Smiths Knoll Remembrance Ceremony

Art expressed concern regarding the planning of this event and who had the lead. Rebecca to ask Sarah Ehmke to call him regarding both planning and funding.

4.7 Cancellation of Remembrance Day Service in Federal Building Lobby

Update: Approval to send the letter was received at Council on May 23, 2012. Letter under John's signature was sent May 24, 2012. There has been no response to date.

4.8 Queen's Jubilee Medal Nomination – Bill McCulloch

Update: Dave is working with Nick Westoll, Councillor Morelli's assistant to submit nomination on-line.

4.9 Media Releases for Veterans Events

Update: Marie is ready to send these out but suggested the HVC needs to look at events logistically in anticipation of increased numbers to determine how will we accommodate them.

4.10 Dieppe Memorial Remembrance Event – Sunday, August 19, 2012

Update: July 19 planning meeting – Bob suggested that Marie should be in attendance. Location: RHLI club, 10 a.m.

Dieppe Memorial Committee was in place to raise funds to have the Memorial erected. Responsibility for hosting the annual remembrance service has been handed over to the RHLI Association. They will send out letters of invitation. The RHLI Association has sent a request for supplies and other requirements for the 2012 event including chairs, podium, sound system (\$600 to \$800) and police officer (assist Veterans to cross street). These items were not included in the HVC 2012 budget request. The RHLI Association will be invited to attend the September 2012 HVC meeting to discuss the 2013 budget.

Marie has arranged with Public Works for a general clean-up of the park and replacement of the flags.

Geordie reported that the Regiment under the direction of Tom Marlor will be hosting an event on Sep 16.

Marie reported that the North Wall Riders under the direction of Kevin Ellis will have a candlelight vigil on Friday, August 17. A candle will be lit for every person who was at Dieppe. Kevin assured Marie the park will properly cleaned before August 19. Marie has asked Public Works to confirm.

(Eisan/Rattray)

That it be noted, an escalation in prices for annual events after budget approval will result in a deficit of approximately \$4000 in 2012.

CARRIED

4.11 East Hamilton Decoration Day – Sunday, August 26

Marie MacEachern, Event Coordinator

Host Club: RHLI

Bill will double check what Clergy person will be officiating and let Marie know for program.

Gerry to confirm where in program two minutes of silence should fall and let Marie know for program.

Band: Branch 58 Pipes and Drums

Marie will update the program for July meeting for final review by HVC before printing.

- 4.12 Hamilton and Scourge Memorial** – Saturday, September 15, 2012
Geordie informed the committee this event was changed to September 21. Mike McAllister will send updated information to the committee as he receives it.

5. STANDING ITEMS

5.1 Smith's Knoll - Stoney Creek re-interment

No update

5.2 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration

No update.

5.3 Upcoming Events

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Fields of Honour

The Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries staff are receiving numerous requests for burial in the Fields of Honour at Woodland Cemetery. The requests are from veterans in the City of Hamilton that do not currently meet the criteria.

The Cemetery staff have drafted a new criteria for which they require comments and concerns from the Hamilton Veterans Committee.

Action: Members are to review the draft criteria and come prepared to discuss at the July meeting. If there are any questions that may require research before the July meeting please contact Rebecca.

6.2 Funds collected for flowers at May meeting

The receipt for the plant for John Clarke was submitted for payment from the Hamilton Veterans Committee budget.

(Rattray/Tompkins)

That the funds collected for a plant for John be sent as a donation from the Hamilton Veterans Committee to the charity selected by his family.

CARRIED

The HVC will determine how to recognize John's service to the HVC, perhaps collectively at Remembrance Day.

6.3 Review of Decoration Day

Marie stated there is a need more buses in 2013 as they were standing room only for this year's event. The budget increase will need to be addressed in the 2013 HVC budget submission. If media releases are sent out for future events plans must be in place for increased numbers.

Dundas Concert Band played Land of Hope and Glory at end. It was lovely and commented on by many of those in attendance.

The Band is prepared to arrive early and play some of the marches/songs from the era before and after future events.

Councillor Morelli thanked Marie for her work at Decoration Day.

6.4 Liaison from Department of Veterans Affairs

Due to workload pressures dealing with Veterans Disability pensions the Department of Veterans Affairs has asked Fern to curtail his attendance at external committee meetings.

If HVC has an issue that requires Fern's expertise he can be invited to attend the monthly meeting.

Fern asked that his name be removed from the Dieppe and East Hamilton Decoration Day programs.

Councillor Morelli thanked Fern for his service.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: 10 July 2012
10:00 a.m. to Noon
City Hall – Room 192

Significant Veterans Anniversaries (Please provide any additions you may be aware of to this list.)

- 2012** - RHLI, Dieppe (August 19, 2012), Queen's 60th Jubilee
- 2013** - 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek,
- 2014** - 100th Anniversary of the beginning of WWI
- 70th of D Day
- 2015** -

Should be looking at dates, investigating, asking if HVC can be of assistance