

Mayor and Council
Township of Esquimalt
Esquimalt, BC

11 March 2019

Hello to you all:

I am writing to ask if you as a Council might send a letter of support to BGen[retired]Michael Heppell, CD, chairman of the group that has been working for some years now to have The Bay Street Armoury, 715 Bay Street in the City of Victoria, renamed "General Sir Arthur Currie Armoury" in recognition of General Currie's commendable service as a battlefield commander during the First World War.

Might I point out that many, many Esquimalt men and women have an attachment to this building completed in 1915 by Parfitt Brothers Construction. With this in mind, I have attached a copy of the information as provided by BGen Heppell to help you in your deliberations.

Thanking you in advance for your interest and assistance as we move forward with this project, I remain

Respectively Yours,



Sherri K. Robinson
1165 Old Esquimalt Road

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
<input type="checkbox"/> _____		
RECEIVED: MAR 14 2019		
Referred: <u>Anja</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COTW
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

Bay Street Armoury, 715 Bay Street, Victoria, British Columbia, V8T 1R1

The 5th (BC) Field Regiment RCA Foundation and The Canadian Scottish Board of Regimental Trustees will jointly apply to the Government of Canada to rename the "Bay Street Armoury" in Victoria to the "General Sir Arthur Currie Armoury" in recognition of General Currie's commendable service as a battlefield commander during World War 1 and we require your expression of support in order to strengthen our application.

General Currie moved from Ontario to Victoria at the age of 18 years to become a school teacher. Soon after his arrival in Victoria he joined the 5th Brigade, Canadian Garrison Artillery, progressing in rank to become Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer. Following his tenure of command with the 5th Brigade he was invited to command the newly established militia unit, the 50th Regiment (Gordon Highlanders) until the outbreak of World War 1 at which time he was promoted to command the 2nd Infantry Brigade with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Following the successful capture of Vimy Ridge, he was promoted to Lieutenant General in command of the Canadian Corps until the cease fire November 11th 1918. Throughout his service on active overseas duty with the CEF he was acclaimed as one of the most proficient battle commanders of the War.

Rational for renaming the armoury in honour of General Currie is based on the following:

- The current name of the armoury is geographically descriptive but has no obvious connection to the military history and heritage of the Canadian Armed Forces.
- Changing the name to the General Sir Arthur Currie Armoury would serve as a lasting testimony to the exemplary service of British Columbia's most distinguished soldier.
- The two pre World War 1 Victoria regiments he commanded, 5th (BC) Brigade and 50th Gordon Highlanders, are a part of the lineage of the two Reserve Army units, 5th (BC) Field Regiment RCA and The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's), that have occupied the Bay Street Armoury since its construction in 1915.
- General Currie served as Honorary Colonel of the 5th (BC) Artillery Regiment, based at Bay Street Armoury, from 1919 until his death in 1933.
- While serving as Commanding Officer, 5th (BC) Artillery Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Currie was critical of the proposed plan for Bay Street Armoury as being inadequate to accommodate both an artillery and infantry regiment and was a principal negotiator in the development of a revised plan resulting in a larger and much more satisfactory building than originally intended.
- Recent renaming of Canadian armouries, include
 - 1986 Moose Jaw Armoury renamed D.V. Currie VC Armoury (not related to Sir Arthur)
 - 1990 James Street Armoury, Hamilton, renamed Lieutenant Colonel John Weir-Foote VC Armoury
 - 1998 Grande-Allee Drill Hall, Quebec, renamed Voltigeurs de Quebec Drill Hall
 - 2015 Glace Bay Armoury renamed Dr Guglielmo Marconi Armoury
 - 2018 Kenora Armoury renamed Private David Kejick DCM Armoury
 - 2018 McGregor Armoury, Winnipeg, renamed Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Strachan VC, MC Armoury

Contact information: BGen (retired) Michael Heppell, 250-658-1391, mvheppell@shaw.ca