



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

From: Mayor Barbara Desjardins

Council Meeting: May 27, 2019

Subject: **Community Remembrance Project**

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council request staff to prepare a report to Council as to how Esquimalt can facilitate a community project of Remembrance Day banners.

BACKGROUND:

Esquimalt has a long and rich heritage and relationship with Canada's military and in particular the Navy. Our interaction between our communities is significant and opportunities to recognize this special relationship and our history are important to consider.

Residents Jim MacMillan Murphy and Meagan Hiltz brought the idea of banners of remembrance forward to me and have done research into an option that we may wish to follow. This is a community project similar to our centennial project of memorial bricks within the Memorial Park walkway. The community groups included in Parry Sound were: Chamber of Commerce, Local High School, Legion, and the municipality. Each of the partners sent a representative to serve on an organizing committee, which made all the decisions about who was eligible for their names to go up on a banner, and other issues. (For example, can more than one soldier go on one banner, e.g. brothers? "We said only if there was a picture of them together, so as not to ruin the look of the banners with multiple photos.") They also helped spread the word about the program.

I have received positive interest from CFB Esquimalt Base Commander, Chamber of Commerce, Archives, and Esquimalt Legion. I will be reaching out to Jack Bates (army) and the high schools as this project moves forward.

I would suggest if this project moves forward we utilize the expertise of Archives to assist with reaching out to families of veterans.

See attached form used by Parry Sound regarding eligibility, banners display, cost of sponsorship, and ordering of banner.

In order to have appropriate collection of funds and to understand costs for the municipality (ordering banners, hanging banners) in the similar way as we have handled the Memorial Park walkway bricks, a change may be required in the fees and charges bylaw and policy developed regarding the cost labour for the banners.

The goal is to have the banners purchased by families of those who meet the criteria and this is to be at cost. This is not a fundraiser. Staff can provide greater information about costs of labour, banners, etc.

This has been a successful program in Parry Sound and can be a living program whereby gradual additions of banners can take place as interest occurs. As with the Centennial walkway bricks, banners can be added year after year and old ones retired to the families.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Desjardins,
Mayor

Encl.