
TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

DATE: April 23, 2019

SUBJECT: Cenotaph Request

ORIGIN: November 19, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: MGA 47(1) The council shall make decision in the exercise of its powers and duties by resolution, by policy or by by-law.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff is not making a recommendation at this time but rather is seeking Council's direction on this issue.

BACKGROUND: At the November 19, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council passed a motion directing staff to investigate the protocol in consultation with the Canadian Legion, Canadian Forces and Veterans Affairs for placing the dates for the Korean War and Afghanistan Conflict and names of fallen individuals on the Amherst Cenotaph, and that this addition to the monument can be completed before November 11, 2019.

DISCUSSION: Staff spoke with Ray Coulson of the Royal Canadian Legion and Nova Scotia Highlanders Regimental Museum who provided information that the cenotaph was "*Erected by Senator and Mrs. Curry In memory of their son Captain Leon Hall Curry and his brothers in arms from Cumberland County who gave their lives to their Country In the great German War*" 1914-1918. Based on this information it may not be appropriate to add to the existing cenotaph. The information on the dedication of the existing cenotaph is attached.

Staff also contacted Veterans Affairs Canada who stated in a reply email (attached) that "*there is no official protocol for updating cenotaphs as they are generally the property of the village, town or city in which they are located and are therefore at the discretion of the responsible municipal corporation*". They also note in the email that through the Commemorative Partnership Program, Veterans Affairs Canada may provide financial assistance to community organizations to carry out commemorative initiatives such as repairing and updating community war memorials, and/or erecting new ones. Some of the Guidelines for the Program include:

"The project must commemorate the achievements and sacrifices of those who served Canada post-Confederation (1867). The project may be related to the construction, restoration or expansion of a community war memorial. It must also be of a finite duration, with clear start and end dates.



Eligible projects may be assessed against the following criteria:

- *The applicant has the capacity to deliver the project.*
- *The project objectives are specific and realistic and clearly support the objective of the CPP.*
- *The project will engage youth, Veterans, Canadian Armed Forces members and/or the general public in recognizing all those who served in Canada's efforts during war, military conflict and peace.*
- *The project will have noticeable impact and reach.*
- *Where agreements for collaboration are required to ensure the successful delivery of the project, contributors have confirmed their participation.*
- *The proposed budget is reasonable and sufficiently detailed.*

Up to 50% of eligible expenditures, not exceeding a maximum of \$25,000, may be reimbursed. A minimum of 25% of the applicant's portion of the overall project cost must be cash, while up to 25% can be contributions made in-kind. For projects involving the construction of a new war memorial, VAC will require that inscriptions be in both official languages."

Further information and the Guidelines for this Program can be found at

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/funding-programs/commemorative-partnership/community-war-memorial/guidelines> Staff does note that the deadline for this year has passed however applications will be accepted until the first business day of November for projects starting after April 1 of the next year.

In light of all of the information noted above, staff feel it may not be appropriate to make additions to the existing cenotaph. However, if Council feels a new monument would be appropriate to recognize veterans from other conflicts, it would be suggested that Council direct staff to contact the local Legion to see if they are interested in participating as partners, and apply for funding under the Commemorative Partnership Program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Once Council's direction is determined, costs will be estimated and provided to Council prior to final decisions being made.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: Inclusion of the names of fallen individuals of the Korean War and Afghanistan Conflict are not currently recognized.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: None at this time

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Make arrangements to place the dates for the Korean War and Afghanistan Conflict and names of fallen individuals on the Amherst Cenotaph;
2. Investigate the costs of erecting a new monument to honor the fallen individuals from the Korean War and Afghanistan Conflict, contact the local Legion to determine their interest in partnering on the project and make an application for funding under the Commemorative Partnership Program before the November 1, 2019 deadline.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Information on the dedication of the existing cenotaph.
2. Veterans Affairs Canada email.

Report prepared by: Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk
Report and Financial approved by: