



COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: BURNABY'S WORLD WAR II HONOUR ROLL

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council authorize the expenditure of funds as outlined in this report to complete Burnaby's World War II Honour Roll for Remembrance Day 2005.

REPORT

The Community Heritage Commission, at its meeting held on 2005 September 15, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council approval to authorize an expenditure to complete Burnaby's World War II Honour Roll for Remembrance Day 2005.

Burnaby's Honour Rolls form an important record of the City's heritage and history. The dedication of this memorial in 2005 during the "Year of the Veteran" and on the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II adds considerable significance and meaning to this project.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor C. Redman
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Vice Chair

Copied to:	City Manager Director Finance Director Planning and Building Director Parks
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: 2005 September 09

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: BURNABY'S WORLD WAR II HONOUR ROLL

PURPOSE: To fund the completion of Burnaby's World War II Honour Roll for Remembrance Day 2005.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council be requested to authorize the expenditure of funds as outlined in this report to complete Burnaby's World War II Honour Roll for Remembrance Day 2005.

REPORT**1.0 Background**

In November 2004 Burnaby's Community Heritage Commission completed a project to restore and dedicate the Burnaby South Memorial Cenotaph which honours the war dead of Burnaby South High School. A component of this project was to fully research and honour each of the 53 men listed on the memorial. Arising from this project, it was determined that Burnaby lacked any comprehensive list of its veterans and war dead of World War II. The Commission requested that staff begin the task of identifying and compiling names in order to complete a Burnaby World War II Honour Roll. This important heritage project will ensure that the memory of these men and women of our community may be honoured in perpetuity.

The Government of Canada has declared 2005 the "Year of the Veteran." Throughout the year, Canadians will celebrate, honour, remember, and teach youth about the contributions and sacrifice of our veterans. 2005 is especially meaningful because it marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It is proposed that the City of Burnaby mark this important anniversary with the completion and dedication of the City's World War II Honour Roll in time for Remembrance Day, November 11, 2005.

2.0 Burnaby's Honour Rolls

2.1 History and Traditions of Honour Rolls

Burnaby has a proud history of men and women who served by volunteering for active service. Honour rolls recognize individuals that serve in the time of war and have been used by communities throughout Canada and the Commonwealth as a traditional act of remembrance. These memorials consist of a list of veterans that is compiled to ensure that names of all service men and women are included, with their rank and service acknowledged. The "Heroic Dead" have been traditionally marked on Canadian honour rolls with the addition of a cross and/or maple leaf beside the honoured name. Typically this sombre memorial is crafted in traditional style using calligraphy for the names listed on the "tablets" and native woods and brass for the frame materials.

2.2 World War I Honour Roll

During World War I Burnaby was a young municipality that was tremendously affected and altered by the war effort. It was said that fully one quarter of its entire male population volunteered for war service. The municipality honoured its war heroes with an impressive Honour Roll crafted by civic staff and dedicated at the former Municipal Hall at Edmonds on July 14, 1916. This was an impressive ceremony of remembrance that was attended by the Premier of the Province W.J. Bowser who dedicated the memorial with the words: "The names which appear upon the honour roll are indelibly engraved on the hearts of the people, a monument more lasting than brass." The intention of this memorial was to "keep the record bright before the people of the municipality." At the conclusion of this war, over 1,200 names of service men and women were listed, including over 90 "Heroic Dead" who paid the "ultimate sacrifice."

The World War I Honour Roll remained as an important civic memorial on public display in the old municipal hall and was the focus of many annual Remembrance Day services. The Honour Roll was removed from the old municipal hall in 1956 when municipal council chambers and offices were relocated to the present hall site. It is currently stored at Burnaby Village Museum where it has been professionally conserved by Museum staff.

2.3 World War II Honour Roll

At the conclusion of World War II in 1945, there was an initial movement in the Municipality of Burnaby to complete another community Roll of Honour. However, despite the fact that newspaper advertisements placed in local newspapers calling for nominations, this community-based effort apparently did not succeed. An extensive search of the local community, archives and other sources, has determined that no complete Honour Roll of Burnaby's contribution to World War II exists.

However, the names of these men and women are remembered and memorialized through other means and in various locations. Many local institutions, such as churches and schools, honoured the veterans of Burnaby through smaller memorials and "Rolls of Honour". Additionally, a number of new internet research sites compiled by Veterans Affairs and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission now document Canada's war dead and allow for the quick retrieval of information to confirm the names and service records of local war heroes.

3.0 Burnaby's World War II Honour Roll Project

3.1 Compilation of Honour Roll

The Community Heritage Commission directed staff to work with the local Royal Canadian Legion and its representative Mr. Tom Stewart to compile a list of Burnaby's service men and women of World War II. The intention of this project was to complete the Honour Roll initiative abandoned so many years ago. The Honour Roll will only list and acknowledge those men and women who served with the Allied armed forces during World War II and who were residents of Burnaby at the time of their enlistment between 1939 - 1945.

The task of the compilation of names was initiated through placing articles in the local newspapers requesting information and nominations from the public. In addition, local legion records and all local archives have been thoroughly researched. Rolls of Honour and memorials that exist in local churches were located and transcribed. Both Burnaby South and Burnaby North High Schools were contacted and the detailed lists of their war dead obtained. To date this work has resulted in a list of over 300 Burnaby service men and women being identified. Among these names are 102 men that are confirmed as having died during their war service.

In order to complete the compilation of the Honour Roll, funding is required to undertake further more detailed research. This work will include a review of Burnaby's historic local newspapers to identify additional names and ensure that all of the City's 'war dead' are included. The final list will also need to be refined and cross-checked with the online Veterans Affairs website and historic local directories.

The intention of the project is to make every possible effort to compile Burnaby's World War II Honour Roll and make it as accurate and complete using all available research sources. It is acknowledged that the Honour Roll will not be complete in terms of its name lists at the time of its dedication as there were hundreds of citizens of the Municipality of Burnaby that participated in the war, but not memorialized or documented in local records. However, it is considered important that, despite the likelihood of many omissions, those Burnaby veterans that can be identified should be included in the City's annual act of Remembrance.

3.2 Honour Roll Framing

The “tablets”, inscribed names on paper, will be compiled from the lists and created using digital graphic and printing techniques to mimic traditional hand-drawn calligraphy of other historic honour rolls. This method will enable the tablets to be reprinted as further nominations and new information becomes available overtime. It is proposed that a frame for the tablets, which replicates Burnaby’s original World War I Honor Roll be constructed using traditional oak and brass.

3.3 Honour Roll Website

An online version of Burnaby’s Honour Roll for both World War I and World War II will also be posted on Burnaby’s website. Website visitors and researchers will be encouraged to contact the City to nominate additional persons or correct Honour Roll information. With more time and further research the Honour Roll will continue to grow to become as complete as possible. In the future, Burnaby’s veterans of the Korean War may also be added to the Honour Roll as they are identified.

3.4 Funding

Funding for this project is available in the Community Heritage Commission’s annual project budget. The cost of hiring an auxiliary staff researcher to complete the compilation of the Honour Roll and construction of its frame and display is estimated at \$7,000.00.

4.0 Honour Roll Dedication and Exhibit

In order to commemorate the significance of the new civic Honour Roll, it is proposed that it be placed on display at City Hall during November 2005. The original World War I Honour Roll will also be placed on display for the first time in nearly 50 years, along with appropriate interpretive displays. It would be the intention that these honour rolls would be stored at the museum and exhibited at City Hall during the month of November as part of the City’s annual Remembrance Day program, which includes the City Hall foyer being decorated with floral displays. An opportunity to acknowledge the completion of the new World War II Roll of Honour would be arranged for the 2005 November 07 meeting of Council.

To: Community Heritage Commission
From: Director of Planning and Building
Re: Burnaby's World War II Roll of Honour
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5.0 Conclusion

Burnaby's Honour Rolls form an important record of the City's heritage and history and it is appropriate that they be completed and given due reverence and prominence as part of the civic Remembrance Day programs held annually in November. The proposed completion of Burnaby's World War II Honour Roll in 2005 will for the first time identify and honour hundreds of Burnaby men and women that served in the armed services by name and will form a lasting memorial for generations of citizens. The dedication of this memorial in 2005 during the 'Year of the Veteran' and on the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II adds considerable significance and meaning to this project.


for J. S. Belhouse
Director Planning and Building

JW:hr

cc: City Manager
City Clerk
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services