

DISTRICT OF SAANICH
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THE FRONT GROUNDS,
SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2014 AT 11:00 AM

**TO CONFER THE FREEDOM OF THE MUNICIPALITY ON
39 SERVICE BATTALION**

- Present:
- Chair:** Mayor Leonard
- Council:** Councillors Brice, Brownoff, Derman, Gerrard, Murdock, Sanders, Wade and Wergeland
- Guests:** Commanding Officer R.K. Jones; Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Barry Phillips; Honorary Colonel HY Lee; Captain Dave Wong (Narrator); and Military Padre (Reverend) Captain Frances Savill.
- Dr. Ron and Mrs. May Lou-Poy; Mr. Howard Sturrock; MP Randall Garrison; MLA Lana Popham; Acting Mayor Chris Coleman, City of Victoria; former Saanich Mayor Murray Coell and Mrs. Corinne Coell; Paul Murray, Administrator; Mike Burgess, Fire Chief; and invited guests and citizens of Saanich
- Staff:** Bob Downie, Chief Constable; Donna Dupas, Legislative Manager; Sharon Froud, Deputy Legislative Manager; and Cathy Weston, Senior Committee Clerk

1090-20
Freedom of the
Municipality
Ceremony

BATTALION PARADE APPROACHES

The Freedom of the Municipality ceremony begins with the arrival of 39 Service Battalion. The Battalion was halted by Chief Constable Downie and escorted to the front door of the Municipal Hall.

The Narrator stated:

Welcome Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, to the 39 Service Battalion Freedom of the Municipality of Saanich Ceremony. This ceremony is a centuries-old tradition with roots dating back to the Roman Empire, when Roman Legions could not enter Rome without express permission. City leaders could honour its armies by granting permission to the army to enter the city and march through its streets with flags flying, drums beating and armaments in hand. What you will see today is a representation of this ages-old ceremony.

In accordance with tradition, a ceremonial representation of 39 Service Battalion is presently proceeding from the assembly area toward the walls of the city, represented by Saanich Municipal Hall. This "army" will be met just outside the "walls" of the city by the city's security force, represented in this ceremony by the Chief Constable of the Saanich Police Department. The commander of the city's security force, Chief Constable Bob Downie, will 'challenge' the approaching army to ensure it is the friendly force to be honoured. The Chief Constable will then escort the commander to the gates of the city, represented by the front doors of Municipal Hall, while the army takes its place outside the gates.

Escort to Front
Door of Municipal
Hall

CHIEF CONSTABLE ESCORTS COMMANDING OFFICER TO FRONT DOOR OF MUNICIPAL HALL

Lieutenant Colonel R.K. Jones drew his sword and knocked three times on the door. Mayor Leonard invited Lieutenant Colonel Jones inside the Municipal Hall for introductions with Council members and the signing of the Roll of Freeman.

The Narrator stated:

Now that Chief Constable Downie has escorted the Commanding Officer of 39 Service Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Kirk Jones, to the front door, the Commanding Officer will knock upon the closed gates of the city three times, announcing his friendly intentions. Assured the citizens are safe, the Mayor, His Worship Frank Leonard, will open the doors and invite the Commanding Officer inside to sign the Roll of Freeman on behalf of 39 Service Battalion.

The ceremony of granting of the status of 'Freeman' by a city is another ancient tradition, dating back to the Medieval period when people were either 'vassals' of the city's lord or were free to come and go and do business in the city as they pleased, and to Roman times when soldiers who entered Rome would give up their soldier status and don civilian clothing, thus becoming Free Men. In modern times it is another way for a city to bestow an honour upon prominent citizens, akin to awarding the 'Keys to the City'. Today, you will see the Municipality of Saanich hold a Council Meeting to pass a resolution granting Freedom of the Municipality and conferring Freeman status.

Signing of the Roll
of Freeman

SIGNING OF THE ROLL OF FREEMAN

Lieutenant Colonel Jones, Mayor Leonard and the Legislative Manager signed the Roll of Freeman which reads: "The Freedom of the District of Saanich, by unanimous vote of all the members of the Municipal Council, is hereby conferred upon 39 Service Battalion by virtue whereof, the distinguished person above named, is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a Freeman of the District of Saanich and, by subscribing his signature hereto, hereby graciously accepts the honour thus bestowed."

Lieutenant Colonel Jones and Mayor Leonard exited the Municipal Hall followed by Council members who took their places on the stage on the front grounds of the Municipal Hall.

Mayor's
Welcoming
Remarks

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOMING REMARKS OF HIS WORSHIP, MAYOR FRANK LEONARD

Mayor Leonard called the meeting to order at 11:20 am and welcomed everyone.

Mayor Leonard stated:

Good morning and welcome to Saanich Municipal Hall for a Special Council meeting to bestow the honour of Freedom of the Municipality on 39 Service Battalion. As mentioned by the narrator there is a long and interesting history with recognizing a military unit with this designation. Today, we carry forward historical details and most importantly we are recognizing and celebrating the contributions made to this country and our municipality by 39 Service Battalion.

Reading of the
Resolution

READING OF THE RESOLUTION

Mayor Leonard invited Councillor Brownoff to read out the Council Resolution.

Councillor Brownoff stated:

At the January 13, 2014 Council Meeting, the following resolution was unanimously passed by a vote of all members of Council:

The motion reads "That at a Special Ceremony to be arranged, Council confer the Freedom of the Municipality on 39 Service Battalion".

On this historic and memorable occasion, it is my great privilege to propose the following further resolution:

"I move that, in accordance with the Resolution of Council dated January 13, 2014, under powers conferred by statute, 39 Service Battalion be and is hereby received as having Freedom of the Municipality of Saanich."

Councillor Wergeland stated: *It is my pleasure to second the motion.*

Councillor Brownoff stated:

It is a special honour to speak to this motion. As the Mayor mentioned, Freedom of the Municipality is the highest honour a municipality can award a citizen or military unit. Awarding the designation is rare and requires a unanimous decision of Council.

The 39 Service Battalion is a reserve service battalion of 39 Canadian Brigade. Both 11 and 12 Service Battalion had exceptional records and we know this will continue with 39 Service Battalion providing the best support to the 39 Canadian Brigade Group whether for operations or domestic emergencies. Battalion members have served in numerous operations including the former Yugoslavia, Cyprus, the Middle East and most recently there have been members who have returned from over six month deployments to Afghanistan. In fact, up to 30% of those who have served in Afghanistan have been reservist.

In honouring 39 Service Battalion with the Freedom of the Municipality they are granted the right to bear arms and the privilege of marching through the streets of Saanich in full dress with bayonets fixed. It is certainly our pleasure to afford this privilege to the Battalion.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor's Address

MAYOR'S ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION OF THE SCROLL

Mayor Leonard stated:

It is a very special occasion for the Municipality of Saanich to designate an individual or military unit with the Freedom of the Municipality designation. In the municipalities history there have only been a few selected to receive this distinctive honour and we are pleased to recognize them today. All who have received this designation have provided lasting legacies to our community - George and Blytha Pearkes, Les Passmore, Freeman King, Hugh Keeleyside, Bruce Hutchison, Ken Middleton, Hugh Curtis, Nancy Turner and John Pendray. In attendance today are two Freeman - Ron Lou-Poy and Howard Sturrock. I also want to recognize in attendance today MLA Lana Popham, Member of Parliament Randall Garrison, and Councillor Chris Coleman from the City of Victoria.

In April 1994 Saanich Council honoured 11 (Victoria) Service Battalion and 11 (Victoria) Medical Company with the Freedom of the Municipality designation. At that time the Mayor was Murray Coell who bestowed the recognition on those two companies and he and his wife Corinne are here today. It was a privilege as a Councillor at the time and remains for me and for that Council as memorable and special today. Today we honour 39 Service Battalion who through their predecessors have been garrisoned within Saanich for more than two decades at the Ashton Armoury on Vanalman Avenue and are an integral part of our community. In fact shortly after bestowing the Freedom of the Municipality on them in 1994 they were called out to help us in the blizzard of 1996 and were a wonderful resource right here in our own community and we know what a great ally and resource they are throughout the world.

For generations throughout the region, men and women have volunteered to serve in the distinguished role of citizen and soldier. Reservists are unique in that they are employed, attend school and have families and still find the time to volunteer as a reservist which makes their contribution even more honourable. There is a quote that has been attributed to Winston Churchill that reservists are 'twice the citizen' and that is true. To volunteer in such a meaningful way to safeguard our country is an extraordinary commitment. Through your efforts it has allowed us to enjoy many freedoms that we all share. On behalf of the District of Saanich we thank you for your service to the Country and look forward to many more years of the Battalion being part of the Saanich community. It is a pleasure to present this scroll to the Commanding Officer Kirk Jones.

Presentation of
the Scroll

PRESENTATION OF THE SCROLL

The Scroll, signed by His Worship and the Legislative Manager, was presented to Lieutenant Colonel Jones.

The Scroll reads:

“The District of Saanich
British Columbia

In the matter of conferring the Freedom of the Municipality pursuant to the Community Charter.

The Freedom of the Municipality, by unanimous vote of all the members of the Municipal Council, is hereby conferred upon the

39 Service Battalion

This Distinction, being the highest honour the Municipality can bestow, recognizes their long standing service and commitment to the community.

Presented by his Worship the Mayor at a ceremony on the 3rd day of May in the year 2014.”

Response of
Commanding
Officer/Plaque
Presentation

RESPONSE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JONES

Lieutenant Colonel Jones stated:

To cement the bond of the unit with the Municipality, a Unit plaque will now be presented to Mayor and Council. The Plaque acknowledges the long-standing ties between 39 Service Battalion and its predecessor units, and the Municipality of Saanich.

Inspection of
troops

INSPECTION OF TROOPS

Having been granted permission, 39 Service Battalion fixed bayonets. Lieutenant Colonel Jones addressed the troops to ready them for the inspection.

The Narrator stated:

Soldiers are taught to take pride in their uniform and their deportment. It is an honour to parade before dignitaries, and for a dignitary to acknowledge the soldiers by inspecting them on parade. The act of ‘inspection’ is another ancient military tradition; in preparation for battle a Commander would go through the ranks looking over each soldier to ensure that every one was properly prepared for battle, giving them personal acknowledgement for their willingness to serve and encouragement for the battle to come. Today, the Commanding Officer invites the Mayor to review the troops up close to witness the pride of each soldier on parade.

39 Service Battalion’s present-day role is to provide Supply, Transport, Food Services, Maintenance, and other land logistics support to land combat units in 39 Canadian Brigade Group. But it can trace its roots back to 1906, when the British Army posted an officer of the Royal Corps of Logistics to Esquimalt. By the eve of the First World War, Victoria was home to the Headquarters section Canadian Army Service Corps for Military District Number 11.

Since then, units of what would become 39 Service Battalion have included:

- Horse Transport Company, 11th Division Train, CASC Permanent Active Militia (PAM) and the Motor Transport Company, 11 (Reserve) CASC PAM, housed at the Bay Street Armoury*
- 6th (Reserve) Divisional, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps (Non-Permanent Active Militia)*
- 6th Divisional Petrol Company (Victoria)*
- 2nd Composite Company (Victoria)*
- B platoon of 156 RCASC*
- 155 Transport Company*
- 5 Army Field Workshop (Non-Permanent Active Militia)*
- 40th Technical Squadron Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) (Reserve Force).*

With the birth of the Logistics Branch in 1970 came the formation of 11 Service Battalion, a composite unit amalgamating the supply, transport, maintenance, medical, and military police sub-units then existing in Victoria. The Military Police and Medical elements later split off to become separate units but remained co-located with 11 (Victoria) Service Battalion.

The unit moved into its current location, Lieutenant General EC Ashton Armoury, on 5 February 1994. The Municipality of Saanich marked the move by granting 11 (Victoria) Service Battalion Freedom of the Municipality on 9 April 1994. Since then, 11 (Victoria) Service Battalion has been active in the Municipality, participating in charity events and Remembrance Day ceremonies, and providing assistance during the record snow storm of 1996. The Saanich Police Department shares close ties with the unit, and holds Associate Membership in the Lieutenant General EC Ashton Armoury Officers' Mess.

In 2010, 11 (Victoria) Service Battalion reorganized into 11 (Victoria) Service Company, and along with a reorganized 12 (Vancouver) Service Company, were reformed into 39 Service Battalion. For more than 100 years, 11 (Victoria) Service Company and its predecessor units have contributed to Canadian Armed Forces operations at home and abroad. Unit members have deployed on multi-national operations in Afghanistan and the Balkans, UN Peace Keeping Missions in Cyprus, the Sinai, the Golan Heights, Sudan, and East Timor, Domestic relief operations such as forest fires near Kelowna, flooding on the Prairies, and other serious natural disasters, and security to the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Members also participate in national and international military skills competitions, and annual Marksmanship.

The officers and soldiers of 39 Service Battalion, numbering 187 at full strength garrisoned in Saanich, Richmond and Chilliwack, come from all walks of life. The Battalion is comprised primarily of "citizen soldiers", women and men who hold civilian jobs or attend school or have other full-time non-military pursuits. In their spare time they train to be military drivers, cooks, supply technicians, administration and finance clerks, or vehicle, weapons and other land maintenance technicians. They can apply many of their military skills to their civilian careers, especially leadership, team work and discipline. The Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve welcomes Canadians wanting a part-time

military career with open arms, and 39 Service Battalion is always looking to hear from anyone interested in joining their ranks.

Lieutenant Colonel Jones and Mayor Leonard inspected the Battalion and Combined Army Cadet Band and then returned to the stage.

Singing of the National Anthem

SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mayor Leonard asked guests to rise for the playing of the National Anthem by the Combined Army Cadet Band.

Prayer Reading

PRAYER READING

Mayor Leonard asked guests to remain standing for the prayer reading by Unit Chaplain (Reverend), Captain Frances Savill.

March Off

MARCH OFF

Lieutenant Colonel Jones requested and Mayor Leonard granted permission for the Battalion to march off.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Leonard invited the assembled guests to attend the Change of Command Ceremony at the Lieutenant General Ashton Armoury, 724 Vanalman Avenue at 1:30 pm, and the Armoury Open House from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

MOVED by Councillor Brownoff and SECONDED by Councillor Wergeland: "That the meeting adjourn at 11:40 am."

CARRIED

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MAYOR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK