



Administrative Report

Office of the Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Allan Botham, P.Eng.
Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services

Date: Wednesday, May 03, 2023

Subject: Essex Kent Scottish Painting – Return to Dieppe

Report #: 2023-0503-IPS-R11-AB

Purpose

The purpose of this Administrative Report is to provide County Council with information and recommendations to accept public art, as a donation for the purpose of ownership and display.

Background

Mr. Don Waffle approached the County of Essex regarding the donation of a painting he created to depict and memorialize the Essex Scottish Regiment. Specifically, the subject of the painting is the Essex Scottish Regiment marching through Dieppe, France in September of 1944. (please refer to Figure 2).

Inspiration for the painting came from Mr. Waffle's father, a former member of the Regiment, and a photo that came into his possession.

The photo shows the Pipes and Drums of The Essex Scottish Regiment marching through the streets in Dieppe, France on September 3, 1944 (please refer to Figure 1). The town was liberated by 2nd Canadian Division, including The Essex Scottish Regiment, that was decimated in the Dieppe Raid (Operation Jubilee) on August 19, 1942. On that raid the Essex Scottish landed with 553 members of all ranks plus 13 others attached to Brigade HQ. In all the Essex Scottish suffered 118 killed in action or died of wounds later, and 393 taken prisoner of war.



Figure 1

The Regiment has served in Canada for almost 138 years of continuous service, beginning in 1885, and as needed as far back as 1749. Until 1954 the Essex Scottish and Kent Regiment, which operated as separate regiments, then were merged to become the Essex and Kent Scottish.

Canada and Essex County is proud to have the regiment with a motto of Semper Paratus (Always Ready). The Essex and Kent Scottish website states, they are “proud to train soldiers for the service of Canada whether it is locally or internationally”, and “Members of our Regiment fought in the War of 1812-15, including the capture of Fort Detroit in 1812; the Patriot War of 1838; the South African War 1899-1900; World War I; and World War II; and more recently has deployed soldiers to UN and NATO missions in Egypt, Cyprus, Croatia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Middle East and Latvia.”

Discussion

Mr. Don Waffle’s personal special interest in painting the “Liberation” piece came from his dad, Mr. Van Waffle, who had a long and productive career in the Essex Scottish Reserve.

When World War 2 commenced, Van Waffle, age 37, enlisted in the Essex Scottish Reserve and eventually earned the rank of Major. His work with the Western Ontario Recruitment Center won him an award.

Running an electric motor repair business, vital to the war, meant Mr. Waffle had access to precious gasoline tightly rationed to others. As a result, he was put in charge of a unit in Amherstburg. A typical training day involved coming home from work to put on his uniform, piling rifles into the trunk of his car from the armouries, and delivering them to Amherstburg for training the unit there.

Mr. Van Waffle's unit was chosen to put on a promotional marching display on Ouellette Avenue, in Windsor. All ranks marched in unison but without a word of command. In Mr. Don Waffle's words, "The crowd loved it!".

The Regiment was part of Mr. Don Waffle's life growing up from a youngster, and assured a steady interest in the Essex Scottish.

Many years later, Mr. Don Waffle came across the small black and white photo (Figure 1), taken in September of 1944 as the Essex Scottish took advantage of the retreating German army and returned to Dieppe. The photo and memories inspired Mr. Waffle to complete his toughest challenge yet of bringing to life a full-size colour painting (Figure 2).



Figure 2

It is proposed to receive/own the painting and display it in the lobby of the Essex County Civic Centre.

Financial Implications

There is no financial implication related to this report.

Consultations

Preparation of this report included consultation with the County of Essex Senior Leadership Team, Mr. Don Waffle and members of the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment.

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report 2023-0503-IPS-R11-AB and accept with thanks the donation of the painting titled "Liberation of Dieppe", created by Mr. Don Waffle, for the use and enjoyment of the County of Essex.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Allan Botham

Allan Botham, P.Eng., Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Concurred With,

Mary Birch

Mary Birch, BA, CMO, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix Number	Title
N/A	N/A