

COUNCIL REPORT

M&C No.	2019-256
Report Date	October 11, 2019
Meeting Date	October 21, 2019
Service Area	Corporate Services

His Worship Mayor Don Darling and Members of Common Council

***SUBJECT: Request to Grant Freedom of the City to 403 (City of Calgary)
Helicopter Operational and Training Squadron***

OPEN OR CLOSED SESSION

It is recommended that this matter be discussed in closed session. The resolution would subsequently require adoption by Council in open session.

AUTHORIZATION

Primary Author	Commissioner/Dept. Head	City Manager
<i>Jonathan Taylor</i>	<i>Jonathan Taylor</i>	<i>John Collin</i>

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Common Council grant the Freedom of the City to 403 (City of Calgary) Helicopter and Operational Training Squadron; and further, that a "Freedom" parade and ceremony be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides background information on the Freedom of the City award and recommends that Council consider granting this honour to 403 Squadron.

PREVIOUS RESOLUTION

Council Resolution of October 7, 2019:

RESOLVED that the Turnbull (NB) Chapter - Request for the Granting of the Freedom of The City letter re referred to the City Manager.

REPORT

At its meeting of October 7th, 2019, Common Council received a written request from Harold E. Wright, Director of the Turnbull (NB) Chapter of the Canadian Aviation Society, to grant the Freedom of the City to No. 403 (Fighter) Squadron, RCAF Helicopter Operational and Training Squadron stationed at Base Gagetown.

History and Origins of Freedom of the City

The Freedom of the City is the highest honour a municipality can bestow upon a person or persons who have served the city in some exceptional capacity.

The honour can be traced back to the medieval concept of “free status”, when city and town charters drew a distinction between freemen and vassals of a feudal lord. The recipient of Freedom of the City enjoyed privileges such as the right to trade and own property, and protection while within the city.

The practice of granting Freedom of the City continues to this day in places such as the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada; however, in modern times the award is considered entirely ceremonial and affords no special privileges to the recipients.

The 1785 Charter of the City of Saint John allowed for the registration of “Free Citizens” of the City. This privilege had specific appointment criteria and benefits for the “Freeman” recipient. In 1870, an act in amendment of the Charter of the City of Saint John abolished the making of free citizens.

In 1901, Provincial legislation was enacted to allow Common Council to confer the Freedom of the City upon any person for the purpose of “honorable distinction”. Specifically, *An Act to authorize the Common Council of the City of Saint John to confer the Freedom of the City upon any person or persons in certain cases*, (1901) 1 Edw. 7, C.44, provides:

“Whenever the Common Council of the City of Saint John shall, by unanimous vote thereof, declare that it is desirable to confer the Freedom of the said City, upon any person for the purpose of Honorable Distinction, it shall and may be lawful for the said Council, and it is hereby authorized and empowered so to do.”

Since 1901, Common Council has conferred the Freedom of the City to over 180 individuals and/or groups.

Previous individual recipients of Freedom of the City:

- Charles Gorman (1926)
- Eleanor Roosevelt (1956)
- Philip Oland (1970)
- K.C. Irving (1984)
- Fred Ross (1999)
- J.K, Jack and Arthur Irving (2012)
- Dr. Richard Currie (2012)
- The Friars’ Sisters (2018)

Freedom of the City for Military

The Freedom of the City award may also be granted to military units. Traditionally it has been awarded to units who have earned the City's trust or to those with historic ties to the area. It is considered an affirmation of the bond between the regiment and the citizenry.

The granting of the Freedom of the City permits the military unit to parade through the city "with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed".

Previous military recipients of Freedom of the City:

- 3rd Field Artillery Regiment (The Loyal Company) Saint John unit (1968)
- Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada (1970)
- The Royal Canadian Regiment 2nd Battalion (1983)
- H.M.C.S Brunswicker, Royal Canadian Navy (1985)
- Saint Mary's Band (1989)
- The Royal N.B. Regiment (1993)
- 722 (Saint John) Communication Squadron (1994)
- 31 (Saint John) Service Battalion (1994)
- 410 (City of Saint John) Squadron, RCAF (2012)
- 9 Cadet Units (2017)

Background on 403 Squadron

403 "City of Calgary" (Helicopter) Operational Training Squadron (403 Sqn) is a squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) located at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown. It is equipped with CH-146 Griffons and provides operational aircrew training to the crews who will fly the helicopter. The squadron conducts operational tests and evaluations, develops aviation tactics and carries out operations in support of the 1 Wing mission. In addition, it supports the local Army requirements of the Combat Training Centre. The Squadron was founded as No. 403 Squadron RCAF.

As highlighted in Mr. Wright's letter, 403 Squadron has provided exceptional service and support to the Canadian Army, military operations at home and abroad and to local and surrounding communities for close to fifty years. 403 Squadron has invested significant time and energy into supporting various charitable initiatives around the province, some of which have impacted residents of the greater Saint John community. Granting the Freedom of the City award would be the most sincere way to say "Thank You" to this military unit.

Should Council choose to grant the award, a parade and ceremony would be planned in 2020. Although a date of May 18th, 2020 has been suggested, Mr.

Wright has indicated that an earlier alternate date could be considered due to the municipal election taking place on May 11th, 2020.

It is anticipated the majority of the planning and execution of the “Freedom” parade and celebratory activities would be provided by RCAF and its network of support. The City would be responsible for printing and framing the Freedom of the City certificate, providing some staff time to help organize the event and possibly some in-kind support.

Pursuant to the legislation, the granting of Freedom of the City would require a unanimous vote of Council in order to proceed.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The recommendation aligns with the Council priority of a Vibrant City.

SERVICE AND FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The anticipated cost associated with awarding Freedom the City is approximately \$1000. Staff time and some in-kind services from the City are also anticipated.

INPUT FROM OTHER SERVICE AREAS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Harold. E Wright, Director of the Turnbull (NB) Chapter of the Canadian Aviation Society

ATTACHMENTS

- Letter to Council from Harold E. Wright dated 28, September, 2019 requesting the granting of Freedom of the City
- List of past Freedom of the City recipients

TRANSPARENCY:

Should the staff recommendation be adopted by the Committee of the Whole, the staff report in its entirety will be added to the regular Council meeting agenda and will form part of the public record.



Turnbull (NB) Chapter

Canadian Aviation Historical Society

26 September 2019

Mayor and Common Council
City of Saint John
PO Box 1971
Saint John, NB

Dear Mayor Darling and Councillors:

Request for the Granting of the Freedom of the City

We ask that you grant the Freedom of the City of Saint John to 403 (City of Calgary) Helicopter Operational and Training Squadron stationed at Base Gagetown. This Squadron has provided exceptional service and support to the Canadian Army, military operations at home and abroad, and to our local and surrounding communities for close to fifty years. 403 Squadron has invested significant time and energy into supporting various charitable initiatives around the province, some which have impacted residents of our greater Saint John community. The most sincere way we can say "Thank You" to a military unit is by granting to that unit our Freedom honour.

You will recall that two years ago you granted, at our request, the Freedom of the City to the nine greater Saint John area cadet units. We also requested, and you approved, the re-affiliation and granting of this Freedom to our own 410 (City of Saint John) Squadron, stationed at 4 Wing, Cold Lake.

Enclosed with this request is a background document on the Squadron and why we feel it merits our Freedom honour.

Should you wish to honour the fine men and women of this Squadron with our civic honour, we would like to suggest that a Freedom parade and ceremony could be held to celebrate our own birthday, on Monday, 18 May 2020. Next year is also the 75th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. 403 Squadron, known as the "Wolf" Squadron, was formed during this war and earned her Battle Honours during that conflict, in similar fashion as did our own 410 Squadron, known as the "Cougar" Squadron.

We have a large network of support within the RCAF and it is at the ready to provide assistance for the planning and execution of the "Freedom" parade and any associated celebratory activities.

Yours truly,

Harold E. Wright
Director, Turnbull (NB) Chapter
2-299 Main Street
Saint John, NB, E2K 1J1
saintjohnheritage@yahoo.ca

403 Helicopter and Operational Training Squadron The (City of Calgary) Squadron

Support to Organizations and Residents of the City of Saint John

No. 403 (Fighter) Squadron, RCAF, was formed at RAF Station Baginton (now Coventry Airport), at Warwickshire, England, on 01 March 1941. It was the first squadron of the RCAF formed overseas under the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan. During this war the squadron destroyed 123 enemy aircraft, shared in seven, had 10 probably destroyed, and 72 damaged. Sixteen Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFC), four DFC with Bar, and one Military Medal were awarded to Squadron members. The "Wolf" Squadron lost eighty-five aircraft and 76 pilots.

After the war the Squadron went through several reformations flying both fixed and rotary winged aircraft. Today the Squadron flies the CH-146 Griffon. In September 1952, "City of Calgary" was incorporated into the Squadron's title. In 1972 the Squadron was given the role of training aircrew and technical personnel for the Tactical Helicopter and Rescue Squadrons. In August 1980 the Squadron gained aircrew and support personnel from the disbandment of 422 Squadron.

- In 1979 the Squadron (then 422 which amalgamated with 403 shortly thereafter) provided familiarization flights for air cadets to Partridge Island. In 1982, with support from 450 Squadron in Ottawa, two naval gun barrels were brought onto the mainland. In 2009 those gun barrels were turned over to the Federal Crown and are currently on long-term exhibit in the City.
- Since the late 1970s, 403 Squadron provides tours of their Squadron quarters and their flight simulators, and familiarization flights to our local air and army cadets. They also do the same for various veterans and community organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion, our own Turnbull Chapter, and for 250 (Saint John) Wing, RCAF Association.
- Over the past forty years they have supported our annual Battle of Britain parade in September, along with the parades in Fredericton and McAdam. This includes Squadron personnel and when the fog lifts as it did this year, with a helicopter flyby.
- Since 2006 the Squadron has participated in many of the annual Pennfield Ridge air station services. They have attended dinners and provided guest speakers for dinners and public lectures.
- Over the past several years, when the Province or the City were affected by forest fires, flooding, or extreme weather events, Squadron personnel provided assistance through sand-bagging, or aerial observation over the St. John river to ensure the best protection plan for Saint John residents.
- In 2012 when the City of Saint John granted the Freedom of the City to our own 410 (City of Saint John) Squadron, 403 provided material support for the organization and carrying out of that presentation ceremony and parade.
- Earlier this month the Squadron provided personnel and transport to our members and guests as we recognized the first two members of the RCAF who died during the Second World War and of two pilots who were lost in a crash east of Saint John in 1944.

Harold E. Wright
Turnbull (NB) Chapter
Canadian Aviation Historical Society
26 September 2019



City of Saint John

FREEDOM OF THE CITY RECIPIENTS SINCE 1901

PERSON/GROUP	TITLE	DATE
SOLOMON, Richard Stuart	Resident of Capetown, South Africa	July 2, 1901
ADAMS, George G.	Boer War Veterans	July 13, 1901
ADDISON, Joseph P. ANDERSON, W. Earle ARMSTRONG, Beverley R. BELL, Walker H. BETTLE, Frederick E. BURNSIDE, James M BYRANT, William CARNEY, John P. CHERLEY, Frederick T. CHISHOLM, William Allan COOMBS, Frederick W. COOPER, William J. (or Walter) CRAIG, Edward A. CUNARD, C.W. DONOHOE, William W. DOWNING, Walter W. DOYLE, Andrew DOYLE, F.L. EDWARDS, W. FABRE, David J. FAIRWEATHER, P.R.L. FOSTER, Minard G. GLOBE, Alexander R. GRECIE, James HARRISON, Roy Arnold HATFIELD, Arthur S. HAWKINS, J. Frank HAYDEN, Arthur HOWARD, A.G. HUBLEY, Russell C. HUNTER, William L. IRVING, Walter H. JENKINS, Charles Leonard JOHNSON, James		



City of Saint John

PERSON/GROUP	TITLE	DATE
JONES, Frederick Caverhill KAYE, John Henry KIRK, George P. KIRKPATRICK, Frederick A. LAWSON, Frederick W. LEAVITT, A. LETSON, Joseph LOCKHART, John H. MALLORY, Edwin P. MARKHAM, Ralph F. McCAIN, Frederick McCULLEY, J.R. McDERMOTT, James McELHINNEY, John A. McINTOSH, A.L. McINTYRE, Robert McKINNSON, Hedley Vicars McLEAN, Charles Wesley Weldon McLEOD, George F. McMULLIN, William F. METZLER, Harry MONTEITH, Joseph (or James) MOOREHOUSE, A.H. MORLEY, Henry Austin MORRISON, Daniel A. MORRISON, F. Stanley NILANT, John PARKS, John H., Junior PASCOE, J. Benson PELKY, Ambrose PENNY, Richard PHILLIPS, Henry E. POLKINGHORN, George RAWLINS, John RAYMOND, William J. REDMOND, Charles T. ROBERTS, Arthur ROBERTSON, J. HARRY ROBERTSON, Duncan R. RYAN, John T. SCHOFIELD, Allan McLeod		



City of Saint John

PERSON/GROUP	TITLE	DATE
SCOTT, John SIMSON, Alfred SMITH, Louis SPRAGUE, Frank W. STANTON, Leight STEVENSON, H. Irving STRANGE, Ernest Harold SWATRIDGE,, William O. TURNER, Robert M. UNKAUF, William C. VENNING, Walter E. WALSH, John WILLIAMS, John H. WILLIAMS, Frederick WITHERS, Lemuel J. MCLEOD, Norman P.		
SINGER, Leslie M.	Boer War Veteran	December 5, 1901
KIRKPATRICK, Frederick W.	Boer War Veteran	December 5, 1901
HAYDEN, Daniel S.	Boer War Veteran	December 5, 1901
COLLINS, Thomas	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
LAHEY, Fred C.	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
LAHEY, Edward	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
MILLER, James	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
MURRAY, Edward	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
MURRAY, James	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
MCDERMOTT, Daniel	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
O'LEARY, John	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
SPEARS, Harry	Life Boat crew member	November 2, 1903
BEATTY, Edward Wentworth	Pres. C.P.R.	December 4, 1923
CONNOLLY, James	Pres. of City Cornet Band	November 18, 1924
GORMAN, Charles I.	World Speedskating Champion	February 16, 1926
AITKEN, The Rt. Hon. William Maxwell	Lord Beaverbrook	August 17, 1928
McLEAN, Angus	Industrialist	November 20, 1930
BENNETT, The Rt. Hon. Richard Bedford	Prime Minister	May 11, 1933
CLARKE, Charles Adam	Salvage Corps & Fire Police, No 1 Company	April 19, 1934
LORDLY, Sterling Botsford	Salvage Corps & Fire Police , No. 1 Company	April 19, 1934
WEBSTER, Dr. John Clarence	Historian	August 13, 1936



City of Saint John

PERSON/GROUP	TITLE	DATE
HAMM, Robert Parker	Salvage Corps & Fire Police, No 2 Company	April 13, 1936
HUMPHREY, Harry Jasper	Vice-Pres. & General Manager, C.P.R.	August 24, 1936
MAYER, Louis Burt	Film magnate	May 19, 1939
NESBITT, Arthur James	Financier & Industrialist	August 24, 1939
MacINTOSH, Dr. William	Director, Natural History Society Museum and New Brunswick Museum	January 2, 1941
O'CONNELL, James Daniel	Philanthropist	February 11, 1943
WHITE, Dr. Walter Woodworth	Former Mayor	February 11, 1943
ROSS, Frank MacKenzie	Industrialist	June 4, 1943
FINLEY, John Lindsay	Salvage Corps & Fire Police, No. 1 Company	December 16, 1943
MITCHELL, John Cecil	Salvage Corps & Fire Police, No. 1 Company	September 7, 1944
CRERAR, Gen. Henry Duncan Graham	General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, First Canadian Army	November 29, 1945
HOWARD, Edward Percy	Salvage Corps & Fire Police, No. 1 Company	October 21, 1954
MACLAREN, The Hon. D. L.	Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick	May 18, 1955
YOUNG, The Rev. Canon John Vernon	Clergyman	January 31, 1956
ROOSEVELT, Anna Eleanor	Wife of late President of the United States	May 1, 1956
FARREN, George Crawford MacLise	Salvage Corps & Fire Police, No. 1 Company	May 22, 1956
CUMMINGS, Nathan	Philanthropist	April 24, 1958
CHITTICK, George Corbett	Contractor	October 28, 1958
BARBOUR, George Ernest		January 13, 1959
WHITEBONE, James Alexander	Former Mayor, Alderman & Labour Leader	May 18, 1961
McINERNEY, Q.C., Henry Owen	Judicial Officer	March 12, 1962
MAIN, Wilmot B.	Educator	April 29, 1963
WILSON, Charles Newcomb	Businessman	May 18, 1964
SIMPSON, George	Former Councillor and County Warden	May 1, 1967
TEED, Muriel V.	Cultural & patriotic organizations leader	May 18, 1967



City of Saint John

PERSON/GROUP	TITLE	DATE
COOK, William H.	Boer War Veteran	May 18, 1967
COMEAU, Harry T.	Boer War Veteran	May 18, 1967
FINNAMORE, Arthur	Boer War Veteran	May 18, 1967
FITZGERALD, John M.	Boer War Veteran	May 18, 1967
HAMM, Frank N.	Boer War Veteran	May 18, 1967
WEAVER, Frank W.	Boer War Veteran	May 18, 1967
STEVENS, Alonzo	Boer War Veteran	May 18, 1967
OLAND, George B.	Boer War Veteran	May 18, 1967
CARTON, Arthur W.	Municipal Councillor and former County Warden	May 18, 1967
KENNEDY, Joseph Kenneth	Businessman	May 29, 1968
TOGASAKI, Kiyoshi	President of Rotary International	August 19, 1968
3 FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT (The Loyal Company)	Artillery Regiment	December 13, 1968
OLAND, Philip Warburton	Businessman	May 18, 1970
BLACK WATCH (Royal Highland Regiment) OF CANADA	Militia unit	May 18, 1970
HOLDER, Bruce Edwards	Musician	May 18, 1970
SWEENEY, Edward Bernard	Manager, Admiral Beatty Hotel	July 28, 1971
MURPHY, Sister Marguerite (Veronica)	Administrator, St. Joseph's Hospital	July 2, 1971
PENDRIGH, Dr. Robert Murray	Physician	April 26, 1976
SOMERVILLE, Malcolm. M.	Businessman	May 24, 1983
Second Battalion, THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT	Regular Infantry Regiment	July 9, 1983
IRVING, Kenneth Colin	Industrialist	October 15, 1984
H.M.C.S. BRUNSWICKER	Naval Reserve Unit	July 6, 1985
COX, Kenneth Victor	Businessman	June 20, 1987
ST. MARY'S BAND	Civilian concert band	May 12, 1989
STAFFORD, J. Harold	Labour leader	November 6, 1989
POTTLE, Arthur L.	Educator	May 21, 1992
First Battalion, THE ROYAL NEW BRUNSWICK REGIMENT (Carleton and York)	Artillery Unit	September 18, 1993
LADY AITKEN	Philanthropist	April 19, 1994
722 (SAINT JOHN) COMMUNICATION SQUADRON		June 11, 1994
FRANKLIN, Mitchell	Businessman	June 18, 1994
31 (SAINT JOHN) SERVICE BATTALION		September 24, 1994



City of Saint John

PERSON/GROUP	TITLE	DATE
ROSS, Frederick Joseph	Visual Artist	May 2, 1999
410 City of Saint John Squadron, Royal Canadian Air Force		July 3, 2012
IRVING, Arthur	Business Leader	December 16, 2012
IRVING, JK	Business Leader	December 16, 2012
IRVING, Jack	Business Leader	December 16, 2012
CURRIE, Dr. Richard	Business Leader	October 7, 2013
No. 9 RODNEY SEA CADETS No. 140 KINGSTON ARMY CADETS No. 161 CK BEVERIDGE AIR No. 268 BRAS D'OR SEA CADETS No. 311 HALIFAX SEA CADETS No. 527 SIMONDS AIR CADETS No. 1691 SAINT JOHN ARMY CADETS No. 1777 SAINT JOHN WEST ARMY CADETS No. 3034 BLUE MOUNTAIN ARMY CADETS	Cadets	February 6, 2017
The Friars Sisters: Tracy Friars, Darlene Friars, Barbara Walker, Heather Stilwell, Bette Vincent, Wendy Youden, Jane Dalton, Lynn MacDonald	Fundraisers for local Charitable causes	December 3, 2018