



22 October 2013

Your worship, the Honourable Mayor Joe Fontana
The Corporation of the City of London
London City Hall
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario N6B 1Z2

Your Worship in Council,

It is my sad duty to share with London's City Council that the Western Ontario Gunner Officers Association shall retire with its last meeting being held 23 October 2013 at the Delta London Armouries hotel. With the aging of our membership, it is our desire to retire with dignity than inevitably fade into obscurity.

You are aware that 2014 will begin a centennial commemoration of the Great War. There were over 16 million deaths and 20 million wounded ranking it among the deadliest conflicts in human history. Canada suffered dearly with nearly 65,000 military fatalities and nearly 150,000 military wounded; many from the London area.

On the occasion of the retirement of the Western Ontario Gunner Officers Association and to launch the centenary commemoration of World War One, the Association seeks to gift the City with a World War One wooden gun wheel off a Canadian field gun destroyed by a direct hit from enemy fire. It was brought back to Canada after the war and found a home with the Artillery Regiment in London until their disbandment in November 1964. It has been in the safe keeping of the Western Ontario Gunner Officers Association since. Currently, it has been on display at the Delta London Armouries hotel.

Having first received support of the Board of Directors, Royal Canadian Legion, Vimy Branch, given their relationship with the London Books of Remembrance, we now request the gun wheel be displayed with the memorial plaque and Books of Remembrance on the main floor of London City Hall.

Ubique Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt

Major (ret'd) Robert R. Doyon, OMM, CD
President

Att.

Western Ontario Gunner Officers Association
c/o Wolseley Barracks Officers Mess
701 Oxford Street East, London Ontario N5Y 4T7

Attachment:



Plaque inscription: *“The Delta London Armouries hotel gratefully acknowledges the loan of this military artefact known as the gun wheel from the Western Ontario Gunner Officers Association. It is from the collection of Lieutenant Colonel Woodman Leonard. The gun wheel is a partially destroyed wooden wheel from an 18 pound gun which was hit by enemy fire during World War One. It was on display for many years in the officers mess (presently known as the Kent Parlour) during the armouries era.”*

Wheel dimensions: Approximately 60 inches wide (5 feet), and 46 inches high. The stand is 14 inches tall, 10 ½ inches deep, and 54 ½ inches wide.