



1st Hussars Association
Wolseley Barracks
701 Oxford St. East
London, On. N5Y 4T7

October 23rd, 2012

Mayor Joe Fontana
and City Councillors
CITY of LONDON
City Hall
300 Dufferin Ave.
LONDON, ON. N6B 1Z2

Dear Mayor Fontana and Members of City Council;

PROPOSED DESIGNATION FOR HIGHWAY #22

As members of the 1st Hussars Association, one of our important mandates is to remember those who have gone before in our Regiment and to perpetuate their memory by continually promoting the 1st Hussars within our communities. With our glorious history as a precedent, we feel our Regiment is worthy of, and able to maintain an honour the Association is asking our communities to bestow upon it.

Our military Regiment, the 1st Hussars, has proudly served Canada and southwestern Ontario for more than 156 years, based out of London, On. and, since 1964 (48 years) with a detached squadron in Sarnia, On. These are the two remaining components of a Cavalry unit and an Infantry unit that formed in the mid 1800's with men and women from Lambton and Middlesex counties, changing through various combat roles until the 1st Hussars emerge today as an armoured regiment with a reconnaissance squadron.

The Association is contacting the two municipalities (Cities of London and Sarnia) and two county governments (Middlesex and Lambton) regarding a proposal to have those parts of County Road # 22 (London Line) and County Highway #22 (Egremont Road) within their appropriate boundaries to also be known as:

The 1st Hussars Commemorative Highway

The 1st Hussars Association respectfully request that the City of London council pass a motion to allow that part of County Road # 22 (Fanshaw Park Rd West) under their jurisdiction to be recognized as a commemorative highway for the 1st Hussars; and to allow appropriate signage indicating this. Specifically, it would be that part of Fanshaw Park Rd West starting in the west at the City boundary near Denfield Rd and terminating in the east at Richmond Street (Highway #4). Such signs will be financed by the 1st Hussars Association and will be maintained at no expense to the public or the community.

Members of the 1st Hussars Association are willing to come before your council to submit this proposal in person should this be necessary.

This is not a proposal requiring the approval of the Federal or Provincial governments. We are pleased, however, to have received the support of our Federal M.P.'s and Provincial M.P.P.'s in the Association's campaign to have this recognition bestowed upon our Regiment. Their letters are enclosed.

A map of the appropriate sections of County Road/Highway # 22 we are requesting to be so designated is attached. A more detailed reasoning for this proposal and some clarification points are also attached.

Should you require further information or have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or Ken Johnson. Our contact information is shown on the attached page. We will be pleased to speak with you or your staff on this proposal, or meet with you and council should this be desired or necessary.

Thank you for considering the Association's proposal to have County Road/Highway #22 be designated as the 1st Hussars Commemorative Highway. We look forward to your favorable support in making this possible.

Yours truly,



Peter Wood, CD

RSM (ret'd)

Vice President, 1st Hussars Association

attach: 1

enclosures: 9

1st Hussars Commemorative Highway Proposal

Contact Information:

Peter Wood, CD

Ken Johnson, CD

Home Phone: 519-337-8612

519-542-9634

Bus. Phone: n/a

519-337-8185

e-mail: peterwood@sympatico.ca

kjohnson@enerkon.com

Supportive Reasoning & Clarifications

- At least two other counties and municipalities within Ontario have given similar recognition to their local military units. Both Lambton and Middlesex county department staff responsible for roads have advised that County Road/Highway #22 has not been given any such designation or name for any other group, industry or tourism purpose.
- We are not asking for County Road/Highway #22 to be 'renamed'. Existing road names and highway numbers and addresses will not be changed. The proposal we are submitting is to have the road also known as the 1st Hussars Commemorative Highway.
- County Road/Highway #22 connects London and Sarnia, both cities housing elements of the 1st Hussars. It is a regional highway only within the two counties; and as such is deemed more fitting to be recognized for those many citizens of Lambton and Middlesex counties who served as soldiers in the 1st Hussars.
- The year 2014 will be the 50th anniversary of a squadron of the 1st Hussars being based in Sarnia, On.
- This is another way to publically acknowledge those who served our country by volunteering for military duty, whether it be during war or peacetime.
- Why a commemorative highway and not a memorial highway? A 'memorial' is more specific to a person or event and is usually a landmark object (statue, fountain, park). Gravestones are the most common memorial. Commemorative relates to 'commemoration', which is more of an act of remembrance applying to a group of people or events.
- Why are the 1st Hussars, (the serving soldiers or the Regiment itself) not applying for this recognition? The Canadian military is a department of the Federal government, and as such, carries out the policies and decisions of the elected members. Serving soldiers in the military cannot influence government or petition the elected members of any level of government for a preferential decision on any military matter. The 1st Hussars Association is comprised mostly of retired members of the Regiment, and therefore as civilians, are not bound by the same constraints as a serving soldier.