

St. John Ambulance Saint-Jean

SAVING LIVES SAUVER DES VIES at work, home and play au travail, à la maison et dans les loisirs

Tuesday, 5 February 2019

The Corporation of the City of London, Community and Protective Services Committee London City Hall 300 Dufferin Avenue London, Ontario N6B 1Z2

Dear Chair and committee members,

It is my esteemed honour to write this letter in support of naming London's Fire Hall No.4 in memory of Deputy Chief W. Peter Harding, KStJ.

St. John Ambulance has a long and proud history around the world for provision of First Aid training and volunteer community services. In any disaster, human or natural, St. John Ambulance volunteers are there to offer assistance, expertise, caring and compassion.

Chief Harding first became involved with St. John Ambulance early in the 1970's and during his more-than-thirty-year tenure, he personally amassed tens of thousands of hours of volunteer service time. He held numerous positions within St. John Ambulance including the previously known position of Provincial Superintendent, however his first love had always been to his community and the role he held until his retirement from active service, Corps Superintendent of the London-Middlesex Corps, St. John Ambulance Brigade.

It is in this role, that Chief Harding spearheaded the development of a number of very unique and innovative programs and services within SJA locally. These programs and services include development of a fully equipped emergency response unit, medical first response bike patrol program, ground search and rescue, and more. Many of his initiatives remain active to this day.

In recognition for his tireless contributions to his community, Chief Harding was admitted to the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in Canada in 1976. In 1979, he was promoted from Serving Member to Officer; in 1985 to Commander of the Order; and in 1997 to Knight.

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As Knight of Justice, Chief Harding was the Order's most senior serving member throughout Southwestern Ontario's area of responsibility. Until his death, he remained supportive of our volunteers; as well as interested and engaged in the efforts of St. John Ambulance.

Chief Harding has been an inspiration and mentor for countless Londoners that went on to pursue careers as Paramedics, Firefighters and other First Responders. London is fortunate for service of heroes like Chief Harding and this city would be well served to have his name associated with Firehall #4.

Pro Utilitate Hominum,

Randy P. Warden, **Executive Director**