



APPENDIX "A"

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Dear *Ms Fullick*

On behalf of The Royal Canadian Regiment, I would like to propose to the City of London that the Quebec Street Bridge be re-named after Field-Marshal, the Right Honourable Viscount Wolseley of Cairo, KP, GCB, OM, GCMG; that the bridge be named the Field Marshal Wolseley Bridge.

This recommendation is The Royal Canadian Regiment's Senate endorsement to the City of London following the re-opening ceremony of the bridge, and its commemorative plaques on 24 June 2011.

The attachment to this letter provides the background and substantiation for our recommendation, based on the Regiment's and Wolseley Barracks linkage to the City of London. We truly appreciate this opportunity, to once again, recognize the City's military heritage with The Royal Canadian Regiment.

Pro Patria,

*M. J. Cunningham
Col of the Regiment*

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Proposal to Re-name the Quebec Street Bridge to the Field Marshal Wolseley Bridge

On 24 June 2011, the City of London, supported by Provincial and Federal officials, re-opened the Quebec Street Bridge. During that ceremony, London celebrated its proud military heritage by unveiling plaques that commemorate three distinct Army organizations that have been a significant part of the Forest City's legacy.

London's proud military history stretches back to 1837, when British troops were first stationed in the area around Victoria Park. In 1886, the City acquired the Victoria Park site in exchange for Carling Farm, and Wolseley Barracks was established. That year, construction began on the first building erected by the Canadian Government specifically to house a unit of the new Permanent Force, the Canadian Infantry School Corps. As the City continued to expand and envelop the Wolseley Barracks property, the railway bridge on Quebec Street was eventually built just a stones throw from the Base. The plaques that line the Quebec Street Bridge commemorate the deep military connections between the City and The Royal Canadian Regiment, 31 Canadian Brigade Group and Wolseley Barracks itself.

The plaques on the bridge showing the Eight-Pointed Star and Queen Victoria's Cypher represent The Royal Canadian Regiment. The RCR traces its history in London back to 1886, when construction began on "A" Block (Wolseley Hall) to house a company of the Infantry School Corps which was established here in 1888. The Regiment has been part of the City's heritage from that time to the present. The RCR maintained its Regimental Headquarters at Wolseley Barracks from 1920 until 2008, including while the single battalion of the Regiment was deployed during the Second World War, and it maintained a Regular Force battalion in London from 1952 until 1992. Today, London remains the home of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment, a unit which was created when another local unit, The Canadian Fusiliers (City of London Regiment), and The Oxford Rifles were amalgamated with The RCR in the 1950s to form the Regiment's Reserve battalion. The Regiment also continues to be represented in London by The RCR Museum, and by a strong branch of The RCR Association, a stalwart group of retired Royal Canadians who have chosen London as their home and where they contribute to many of the veteran-led and coordinated activities in the City, such as Remembrance Day celebrations. The connections that The RCR has with London remain strong enough that the Regiment still considers this city to be its Home Station, it is the only regimental station with an unbroken presence by the Regiment since the 1880s.

The bridge also has plaques with the crest of Garrison London, with the Tower from Wolseley Barracks depicted on it. Canadian Forces Base London was officially established in 1966, as the Army support element for Southwestern Ontario. Downsized in the early 1990s to an Area Support Unit, its role continues to provide services and support to the Reserve Units of Southwestern Ontario.

The other plaques on the bridge commemorate 31 Canadian Brigade Group, The Army in Southwestern Ontario. 31 Canadian Brigade Group officially formed on 1 September 1997, but takes its lineage as a local Army headquarters back through the London Militia District, to 1948. Today, 31 Canadian Brigade Group commands thirteen Units across Southwestern Ontario, and supports three Primary Reserve Units that call London home.

Wolseley Barracks is so named for Field-Marshal, the Right Honourable Viscount Wolseley of Cairo, KP, GCB, OM, GCMG. Field Marshal Wolseley (4 June 1833 - 25 March 1913) was a significant military leader in the late 1800's and early 1900's, having served in Burma, the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, China, Canada, and widely throughout Africa, including his Ashanti campaign and the Nile Expedition in 1884-85. He served as Commander-in-Chief of British Forces from 1895 to 1900. Within Canada, he served as Assistant Quartermaster-General from 1865 until appointed Deputy Quartermaster-General on 1 October 1867. In 1870, he successfully commanded the Red River Expedition to establish Canadian sovereignty over Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

Viscount Wolseley established a legacy of efficiency and effectiveness wherever he served. He was a quintessential soldier of the Empire, having paced its figurative sentry beats the world over. He was awarded immense respect to the effect that when military matters were seen to be correct and in order, the glib phrase that they were "all Sir Garnet" was often used. His approach to improving the efficiency of military organizations was a model approach that the newly created Permanent Force of Canada could aspire to achieve and maintain, a role that has been and continues to be a core attribute of The Royal Canadian Regiment.

From the Quebec Street Bridge, the Canadian Flag atop the tower of Wolseley Hall of Wolseley Barracks is easily seen. London can be justifiably proud of its military history. It would be fitting that the Quebec Street Bridge be re-named as the Field Marshal Wolseley Bridge, in the shadow of Wolseley Barracks, dedicating the lineage and linkages of London's steadfast military partners: The Royal Canadian Regiment, 31 Canadian Brigade Group and Wolseley Barracks.