

**TO:** Mayor Avis & Members of Council  
**FROM:** Laurie Witherspoon, Treasurer  
**DATE:** August 5, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 Donation/Waiving of Fees Request

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### **BACKGROUND**

At the July 14, 2014 Council Meeting, the letter received from Noris Piccinato, President Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 requesting Council to consider donating the use of the Townshend Theatre and waiving of the \$1.50/per person surcharge was referred to Administration & Finance Executive Committee for recommendation.

2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War I and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War II, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 along with the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch #29 and the Fort Frances Museum are planning events to honour individuals from our community and surrounding area for their courage and willingness to serve. On September 10, 2014, the Soldiers of Song touring group known as the The Dumbells will be performing at the Townshend Theatre.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 has requested that consideration be given for donation of the Townshend Theatre use, rental fee of \$270.33 plus HST, plus waive the \$1.50 per person surcharge for the Dumbells' performance scheduled event. In the past, rental fees have not been waived, however in some cases Council has authorised a donation to the entity to offset their rental fee(s) expense.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration & Finance Executive Committee recommends that Council approve a donation up to the maximum of \$950.00 to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 for the September 10, 2014 Soldiers of Song touring group performance at the Townshend Theatre in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War I and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War II events.

**Council Approval of this Report Will Agree** to the Administration & Finance Executive Committee recommendation to approve a donation up to the maximum of \$950.00 to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 toward the September 10, 2014 Soldiers of Song touring group performance at the Townshend Theatre in conjunction with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War I and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War II events.



FORT FRANCES BRANCH 29, MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN  
ONTARIO COMMAND

*The Royal Canadian Legion*

Box 819, 250 Church Street

Fort Frances, ON

P9A 3N1

Office Phone 807-274-0129 Lounge Phone 807-274-5462 JUL - 3 2014  
Kitchen Phone 807-274-3772 Fax # 807-274-6740

Comrade Norris Piccinato  
PRESIDENT

Jennifer Soderholm  
OFFICE MANAGER

Mayor & Council  
Town of Fort Frances  
320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

July 2, 2014

Honoured Mayor and Council:

As you may be aware, 2014 marks the 100 year anniversary of the beginning of World War 1 and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War 2. It is because of the sacrifice made and still being made by our brave Canadian Soldiers that each and every one of us is able to live in a country full of hope and possibilities.

In honour of such important events in our history, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29 along with the Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary Branch #29 and the Fort Frances Museum & Cultural Centre will be spending the months of September through November not only promoting the act of Remembrance for these two events but honouring those individuals from our community and surrounding areas for their courage and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our freedom.

We have had the good fortune to be able to book the "Soldiers of Song" touring group known as "The Dumbells" to do a special performance for our community on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The Dumbells' origin can be traced back to World War 1 where lucky soldiers who could sing a song, preform a skit or pass as a "lady," were taken from the line and put onstage for the benefit of their soldier-audiences. The intent was to bolster morale and thereby help soldiers survive the war. It is well known that the Dumbells have inspired the likes of Wayne and Shuster and Monty Python. The group also managed a run in London's West End and became the first ever Canadian production to score a hit on Broadway. To accommodate the performers and to provide

a venue that will allow for the maximum amount of seating so that everyone wishing to attend has the opportunity we have booked the Townsend Theatre.

As times are difficult in our community with the recent closing of the local mill and the flooding we hope that this performance will once again bolster morale as well as help honour and remember those special men and women from our area who have or are serving. We are therefore asking you to consider donating the use of the Townsend Theatre for the evening and possibly waiving the \$1.50 charge for each person attending the performance.

Each and every one of us, do not have to look very far back in our own family tree to find someone special who was/is willing to lay their life on the line to uphold everything that we as Canadians value. It is very easy to take for granted our way of life and to down play the value of our history. As more and more of our veterans are passing away the importance of those events are forgotten, lost or only found in a history book rarely brought out.

We thank you in advance for your time and willingness to consider our request and we hope to see each and every one of you at the performance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Noris Piccinato', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Noris Piccinato  
President  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch #29

NP/jls

Jason Kabel/Frances  
07/15/2014 03:37 PM

To Laurie Witherspoon/Frances@Frances  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Re: Royal Canadian Legion - The Dumbells performance  
Sept 10/14 at Townshend Theatre

Hi Laurie,

The Royal Canadian Legion would pay the Theatre rental charge of \$270.33+tax plus the \$1.50 per seat surcharge would be applicable as they are charging admission for the event, nominal or otherwise. If you need anything further please feel free to drop me a line.

*430 max. seating at the Theatre.*

Kind regards,  
Jason

Laurie Witherspoon/Frances



Laurie Witherspoon/Frances  
07/15/2014 02:56 PM

To Jason Kabel/Frances@Frances  
cc  
Subject Royal Canadian Legion - The Dumbells performance Sept  
10/14 at Townshend Theatre

Hi Jason,

At the July 14, 2014 Council Meeting, The Royal Canadian Legion requested that the town donate the use of the Townshend Theatre and waive the \$1.50 per person surcharge.

Could you provide me with the rental fee amount associated with that Theatre booking and also advise if the \$1.50/person surcharge would be applicable. The Fort Frances Legion plan to charge a nominal fee (to cover the cost of bringing the Soldiers of Sing touring group in).

Thanks.

Laurie A. Witherspoon, CMO  
Treasurer, Town of Fort Frances  
320 Portage Ave., Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9  
Telephone: (807) 274-5323 Ext. 248  
Fax: (807) 274-8479