

Your Worship Mayor Lehman and members of Barrie City Council,

**Re: Update Report (2015-2018) - Sir Robert Barrie Project Ad Hoc Committee (1 April 2018)**

The Committee's main purpose is to promote public knowledge of the history of Barrie and how we got our name as we found that very few people in Barrie knew the answer to this question.

In the beginning of the Committee's work, we commissioned the painting of Rear-Admiral Sir Robert Barrie, KCB, KCH, with his ship HMS Dragon, which was presented to Council on 1 Nov 2016. To enliven the presentation, the painting's Canadian artist, Peter Rindlisbacher, dressed in a Naval uniform of the 1812 era. The painting now hangs just inside the entrance to the Mayor's administrative area at City Hall. To pay for this and subsequent phases of the project, we held a very successful fundraiser that was supported by citizens & local businesses. However, we are still accepting donations to help continue our work on this project, for which a tax receipt will be issued.

The next part of our project was to commission a display case that would stand adjacent to the original painting. Two naval 'Post Captain RN' uniforms of the 1812 era were ordered from the Ottawa company, Access Heritage Inc, One to be worn by Barrie Town Crier, Steve Travers for special occasions and the other for the mannequin in the beautiful glass cabinet (constructed by Georgian College cabinet making instructor Matthew Heffer) at City Hall.

Major (ret'd) Jean-Maurice Pigeon is a member of our Committee and an outstanding military researcher and historian. He successfully sourced two period naval swords to go with the uniforms as well as replicas of Sir Robert Barrie's Royal Orders. These were purchased to make the uniforms complete.

Following this, we have had seven 24" X 32" reproductions made of the original painting on canvas done by Don Komarechka Photography of Barrie, and these are to be presented to each of the high schools in our city. To date we have recounted the fascinating story of how Barrie got its name and presented the reproductions to 30 to 60 students at each school. A total of over 200 students and faculty were sworn to tell other students, friends, parents, siblings, and anyone who would listen, how Barrie got its name.

We have presented reproductions to the following high schools:

St Peter's Catholic Secondary School	Eastview Secondary School
Saint Joseph's Catholic High School	Innisdale Secondary School
Joan of Arc Catholic High School	Bear Creek Secondary School

On May 16th, we will also be presenting a reproduction to Barrie North Collegiate during the opening of their new addition at an evening ceremony. We hope to have Sir Robert Barrie decked out in full Naval Uniform there for the event. We are also reaching out to the two French-language secondary schools in Barrie, École secondaire catholique Nouvelle-Alliance and École secondaire Roméo Dallaire.

We hope you find our report of interest. The Committee members have very much enjoyed participating in this project and warmly invite you to contact us with any questions.

Committee Members:

Janice LAKING (HCol, retired)  
Jean Maurice PIGEON (Maj, retired)

Bill SERGEANT (LCol, retired)  
Chair: Rob WARMAN (MWO/HCol, retired)