

Whereas Cape Bretoners have a long, proud, and deep-rooted connection with exemplary military service, both at home and abroad in war, conflict and peace keeping; and

Whereas individuals have made a significant and demonstrable impact on the preservation of our distinguished military past, especially that of the renowned Cape Breton Highlanders Regiment; and

Whereas the Cape Breton Highlanders Museum at Victoria Park in Sydney preserves the stories, artifacts, and memories of those who served thanks to the tireless efforts of John William Clarke; and

Whereas John Clarke joined the Cape Breton Highlanders at the age of 22, rising through the ranks to Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM from 1987-1994) advising the Commanding Officer while mentoring soldiers in the battalion; and

Whereas John was recognized with multiple medals and honours including the Canadian Forces Decoration (with 2nd clasp), Queen's Jubilee Medal, Canadian Centennial Medal, the Canada 125 Medal, an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Cape Breton University, and was selected to meet the now King Charles III during the Regiment's visit to England in 1989, and

Whereas John's civilian life included a distinguished career as a manager for Sobeys; however, his love and devotion centred around his beloved wife, Florence "Foonie" Ann Clarke and three children (John Jr. and wife Cynthia, Darryl and wife Heidi, Wendy and husband Steve) and their many grandchildren; and

Whereas John passed away on January 6, 2026, at the age of 86, it is fitting to recognize his immeasurable contribution as the subject matter expert on Cape Breton military history contributing to the publishing of several books while serving as the curator of the Cape Breton Highlanders Museum.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Mayor Cecil P. Clarke and Council express sincere appreciation for the life-long contributions of John William Clarke to our community's storied military past and his legacy of kindness, contribution, and achievement and proclaim John William Clarke, posthumously, as the **"Keeper of the Regiment"** of the Cape Breton Highlanders Museum.