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Draft budget hits 2% property tax hike target

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Residents will see a "reasonable" tax hike of two per cent according to the city's 2016 draft budget.

Mayor Jim Watson called the increase affordable and said it still allows the city to invest in key priorities - such as transit and affordable housing.

See WATER, page 2





In war and peace

Second World War veteran George Fouchard, right, and his step-grandson Cpl. Tyler Kokotailo, who works at CFB Petawawa as a Canadian Army supply technician, prepare to lay a wreath during a Remembrance Day service on Nov. 11 at the Maplewood Retirement Community in Riverview Park, where Fouchard and his wife Betty, also a Second World War veteran, reside. See story, page 21.



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'You lived for the day – you didn't wait for tomorrow'

Remembrance Day time of reflection for husband and wife war vets

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It's best not to call George Fouchard a hero.

"I don't know about that," said the 93-year-old Second World War veteran.

His many military service medals attached to his navy blue blazer tell a different story.

"He's very modest," said Fouchard's son, Jim, a Riverside South resident.

The war brought together Fouchard and his English bride of 72 years, Betty, and seven decades after the war ended, the couple spent Remembrance Day together in quiet reflection at the Maplewood Retirement Community on Industrial Avenue in Riverview Park.

Accompanied by his stepgrandson Cpl. Tyler Kokotailo, from CFB Petawawa, Fouchard laid the only wreath during the Nov. 11 service at the residence, where seniors and 11 other Second World War veterans gathered to pay their respects.

Just the night before,



ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND

Betty, 94, and George Fouchard, 93, reminisce following a Remembrance Day service at the Maplewood Retirement Community in Riverview Park on Nov. 11. George and Betty are both veterans of the Second World War.

"It's hard to imagine they

Still, for Fouchard, Re-

Memories of his five years

spent overseas during the war

percolate to the surface - his

mind stretching back through

the decades to friends and fel-

low soldiers who never made

"So many names. We lost

a lot of people," he said, his

it home from the battles.

membrance Day does not get

any easier. Time does not heal

all wounds.

could do that - be gone from

their family for five years."

Fouchard was one of 19 Canadian veterans of the Second World War who were awarded the Knight of the French Legion of Honour medal during a ceremony at France's embassy in Ottawa. The medal honours those who helped liberate France during the war.

"It's nice of the people of France to realize what they did to liberate France," Fouchard's son said, marvelling at the sacrifices his father made for the war effort. voice trailing off as he blinked back tears.

Fouchard, one of nine children who grew up in Old Ottawa South, was just 18 when he enlisted in the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa. He and his older brother, Tom, who joined the same unit, followed in the footsteps of their father, Tom Sr., an army military police officer.

"It was the 'in' thing to do," Fouchard chuckled. "We thought it was going to be fun." Fouchard was first sent to Iceland in 1940 to help prevent that nation from falling to the Germans before he was recruited into an engineer unit and trained as a cartographer in Wales before he was sent to the south of England.

"I came out of there just in time to do all the D-Day maps," he said, recalling weeks of round-the-clock top-secret efforts to map out travel routes from the coast of France into Cannes. "You couldn't even go to the bathroom without a guard." It was in England where he

met Betty, now 94.

Fouchard was walking by a pub one night with two friends when Betty and her two girlfriends came outside, headed for a Saturday night dance. Each of their friends decided on a whim to go dancing together, and Fouchard and Betty tagged along – despite Fouchard's insistence that dancing wasn't his strong suit.

Betty, originally from Staines, near Heathrow, was 21 when she was conscripted into the British military.

"They were getting desperate with a shortage of men," she said.

Betty chose the air force and was assigned to Beacon Hill, England, where she worked in a Fighter Command operations room, plotting the co-ordinates, height

and speed of incoming German aircraft so Royal Air Force fighters could head them off.

She and George married in July, 1943.

"As soon as daylight came, in we went. Drove right up on shore, dropped the front (of the barge). We didn't even get our feet wet."

GEORGE FOUCHARD, SECOND WORLD WAR VETERAN

"We got married because D-Day, we knew, was coming, didn't we?" she said, turning to George, who nodded. "I guess people felt you lived for the day – you didn't wait for tomorrow. You had a whole different outlook on life."

Fouchard was tapped to go to France around the time of the Normandy landings on D-Day in June, 1944. It was his job as a cartographer to travel on the heels of advancing troops, showing them the way, or, at least, where not to go.

See VET, page 31



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Fouchard George looks over blackand-white photos of himself and his wife, Betty, taken overseas during the Second World War, following a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Maplewood Retirement Community on Nov. 11.

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ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND

Vet credits wife for getting him through transition after war

Continued from page 21

Fouchard can still remember waiting in a barge in the English Channel ahead of a second-wave invasion into France about 10 days after D-Day.

"The next morning, when you could see, there were 1,000 barges, at least, there all around us," he said. "As soon as daylight came, in we went. Drove right up on shore, dropped the front (of the barge). We didn't even get our feet wet."

They hopped in trucks and "drove like hell" for Cannes, where the unit set up their generator and printing press - the map-making tools of their trade.

They made maps on the fly, based on intelligence relayed from scouts, aerial photos and infantry reports on what lay ahead - bridges, terrain, enemy positions. Their precise maps helped the troops that Fouchard's unit was tailing into occupied territory.

"The artillery could use it so they could shoot," said Fouchard. "The air force could use it for saturation bombing. But that all backfired on us. They dropped it on us instead of the enemy."

The friendly fire bombing killed "a lot of good men," he said. "That was tough."

The soldiers moved through France, into Belgium and Holland, crossing the Rhine River into Germany before trooping back to Holland to tackle a stubborn pocket of German soldiers.

Among the sad stories of lives lost and sacrifices made are some fond memories that Fouchard holds dear to this day.

He and his brother met up with their father, who was briefly overseas for some military police business.

Fouchard can still remember walking with them down a street in Manchester, England.

"This lady comes up and she starts berating my father, 'You can't arrest those two young men.' We were trying to convince her, 'No, it's alright. He's our dad," he said chuckling.

On another occasion, deep in the heart of Europe, Fouchard found a bottle of wine and carried it in his kit bag with the idea of uncorking it on his birthday on Jan. 1.

But his plans were derailed by German paratroopers, who made a surprise landing nearby on Dec. 31, 1944.

"They caught us with our pants down," Fouchard said. "These are tough guys. You don't screw around with them."

He piled into a truck with other soldiers and they braced themselves for battle, but the paratroopers proved to be "pussycats," all too eager to surrender.

"Then I came back and my bottle of wine was smashed - kicked over in the schmozzle," he said. "I just about cried. I saved that thing for all these months. I didn't even have any wine for my birthday."

When Fouchard returned to Ottawa after the war, he struggled to adjust to the change of pace.

"You've been on edge for five years and then suddenly...," he said, his voice trailing off. "I think everybody went through a period when they came home - there was no excitement. It was very dull."

Once his wife joined him on Canadian soil in 1946, life improved.

"I was lucky to have Betty for a wife because she was very understanding of all this."

They built a life together, first in Westboro before finally calling Blossom Park West home-their most recent address before they transitioned to the Maplewood residence just over two years ago.

The couple had four sons. Fouchard stayed in the military for 27 years - the bulk of it with the Army Survey Establishment - now known as the Mapping and Charting Establishment.

Betty pursued a career with the federal government. Her father had even immigrated to Canada to be closer to her.

For Fouchard and his wife, Nov. 11 is a day to reflect on the fallen, no matter how painful the memories

"What a waste - all these good men and women," Fouchard said, growing quiet.

Watching the televised service of the National War Memorial remains a challenge, particularly the two minutes of silence and the playing of the Last Post.

"I'm not much good. I'm away in my own thoughts," said Fouchard. "It brings back the bad stuff, which you've been trying to hold down. Then it gets ahead of you.

"You can't push it down anymore – for a little while."



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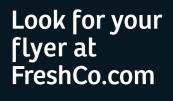
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