

City of Oshawa,

May 6 2025

Since 2014 our Museum, in partnership with the *City of Oshawa*, the *Ontario Regiment RCAC*, the *420 WING Oshawa* and the *Royal Canadian Legion* have hosted the AQUINO Tank Weekend annual show and event. This has grown considerably and is now considered North America's largest military history showcase. Honouring our Veterans and the sacrifices of our citizens during the Second World War and highlighting Canada's contribution to global peace and security over our long proud history. This year is especially important given the 80th anniversary of VE-Day and the event is a local focal point for celebrations and commemorations in our community.

AQUINO Tank Weekend commemorates the liberation of the town of Aquino in Italy during the Second World War by our own local regiment: *The Ontario Regiment RCAC*. The annual event keeps the memory of this alive and has become nationally and internationally attended, becoming one of the largest heritage/cultural annual events hosted in the Region. Over 7000+ visitors visit the museum over the weekend; 74% coming from outside the municipality and an incredible 11% outside Canada. The economic impact for local businesses, hospitality and services in the city is large given that the majority of visitors travel to Oshawa and many stay for the weekend. The same can be said for the many events our museum hosts throughout the year that bring tens of thousands of unique visitors to Oshawa.

An event of such magnitude requires the assistance of many parties to make it happen and we have enjoyed a partnership with the City of Oshawa. The city also being a headline sponsor of the event due to the in-kind services and support provided.

This season; we were informed in March that there would be significant fees charged to our Charity for the services and materials provided by several departments. We were also informed after the deadline for a request of waiving of those fees had past. As this event is not only a cultural and economic boost to the municipality, but our largest annual fundraiser; the additional ~\$4000 in costs would be detrimental to our registered charity and the services we would be able to provide to our community and visitors during the event.

This is a formal request to our partner and event sponsor: *The City of Oshawa*, to consider the waiving of these fees for the AQUINO Tank Weekend event. We value the support and partnership of the City over the past decade in bringing World Class events to our community and highlighting our city as a destination for heritage and cultural events in our Region. We thank you in advance for the continued support.

Regards,

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Ontario Regiment RCAC Regimental Museum
An Accredited Canadian Armed Forces Museum

