



Sarnia Historical Society

May 9, 2018

Hon. Yasir Naqvi
Attorney General of Ontario
700 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M5G 1Z6

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

RE: Norman (Red) Ryan and Sarnia Police Constable Jack Lewis

Eighty-two years ago, your ministry offered a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the notorious bank robber and murderer, Norman (Red) Ryan. The reward was offered following a murder in Markham by Ryan and his gang in February, 1936.

Ryan and a criminal cohort, Harry Checkley, were gunned down and slain by Sarnia police officers on May 23, 1936 while robbing a liquor store on Sarnia's main street. Before Ryan was killed in the gun battle that ensued from the robbery, Ryan shot and killed a brave young police officer – Constable John George (Jack) Lewis.

Constable Lewis was the first police fatality in the then 76-year history of the Sarnia Police Service.

The reward for Ryan's apprehension was never paid.

On behalf of the citizens of Sarnia, who suffered greatly from Ryan's vicious crimes and the murder of this brave, young police constable, the Sarnia Historical Society hereby applies for this unpaid \$1,000 reward.

Kindly be advised that this money will be used to erect a permanent memorial to Constable Lewis at the spot where he lost his life courageously defending the lives and property of the citizens of this city.

Lest his service and bravery be forgotten....

Sincerely

Ron Realesmith
President

/ 2

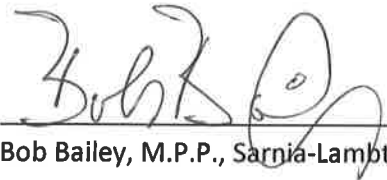
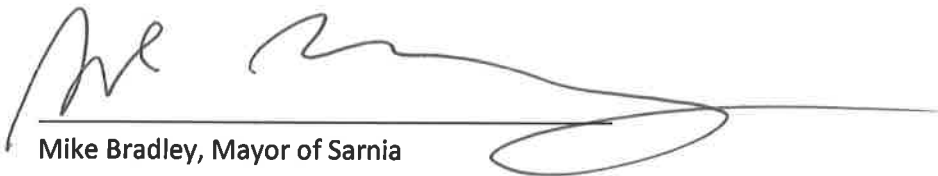
info@sarniahistoricalsociety.com
www.sarniahistoricalsociety.com

247 Cassandra Blvd., Sarnia, ON, N7S 0A3 519-491-6361



Sarnia Historical Society

PS: This application is endorsed by the following:


Bob Bailey, M.P.P., Sarnia-Lambton
Mike Bradley, Mayor of Sarnia
Phil Nelson, Chief, Sarnia Police Service