

## Staff Report

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<b>Report To:</b>	Planning and Development Committee		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	October 22, 2019	<b>Report Number:</b>	PSD-046-19
<b>Submitted By:</b>	Faye Langmaid, Acting Director of Planning Services		
<b>Reviewed By:</b>	Andrew C. Allison, CAO	<b>Resolution#:</b>	
<b>File Number:</b>	PLN 25.1.58	<b>By-law Number:</b>	
<b>Report Subject:</b>	Renaming of King Street in Haydon and a remnant of King Street in Bowmanville		

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### Recommendations:

1. That Report PSD-046-19 be received;
2. That the By-law shown in Attachment 1 to Report PSD-046-19 be approved to:
  - a. rename King Street in Haydon to Grasshopper Park Road; and
  - b. rename the remnant portion of King Street in Bowmanville to Kings Hill Lane;
3. That all affected landowners receive a goodwill payment, in accordance with the Municipality of Clarington's Goodwill Payment Policy for Municipally Initiated Street Name Changes, to recognize the inconvenience and time associated with the street name changes;
4. That a copy of Report PSD-046-19 and Council's decision be forwarded to the Durham Regional Police Service and the Durham Regional Planning and Economic Development Department; and
5. That all interested parties listed in Report PSD-046-19 and any delegations be advised of Council's decision.

## Report Overview

Over the past year, it has been brought to Staff's attention that there are two duplicate King Street names in Clarington that have led to some confusion for mail delivery. Some residents have also expressed concerns about potential response delays in the event of an emergency response. To address these two situations, Staff held two Public Information Sessions one in each respective area to obtain public input.

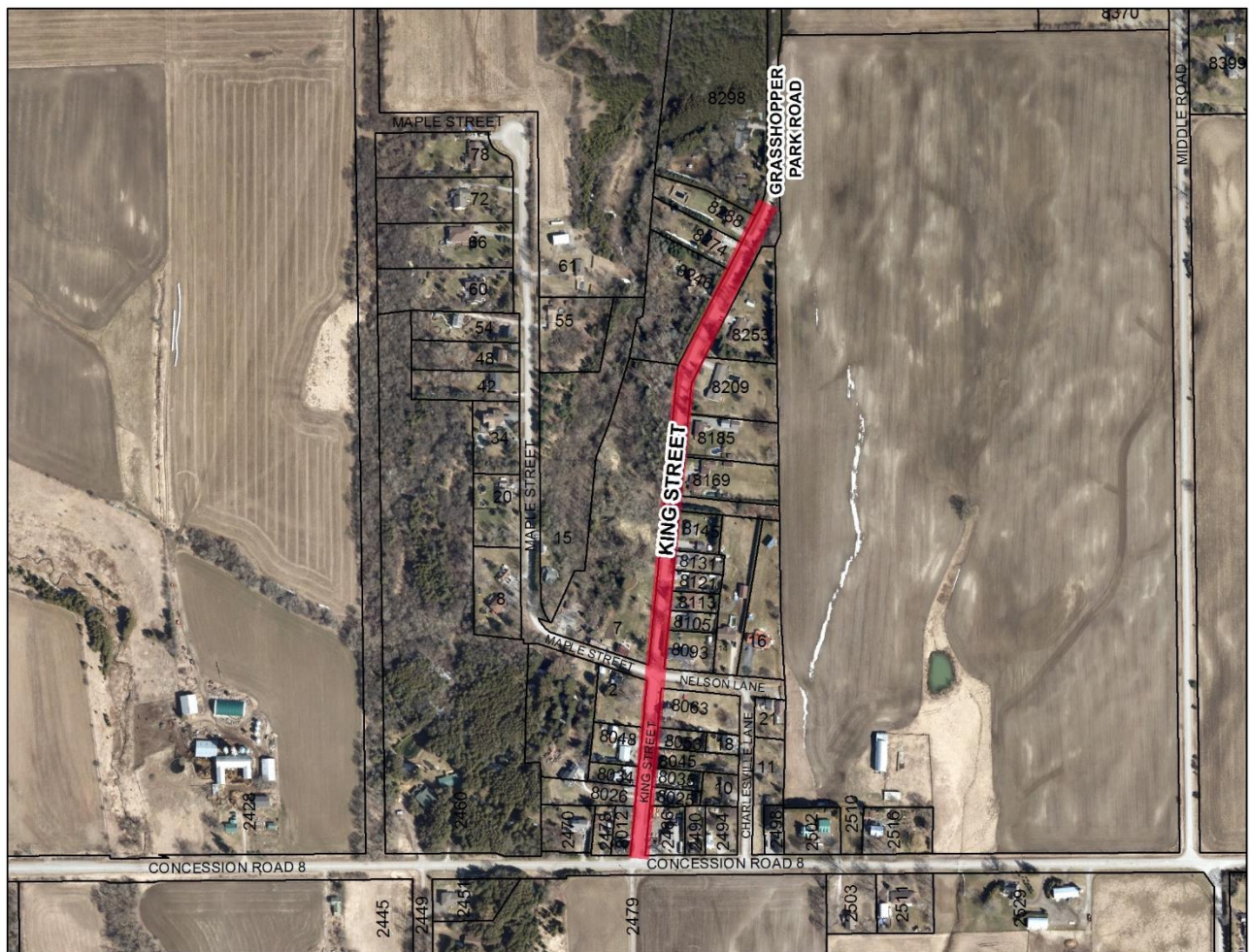
The response in Haydon for the street name change to Grasshopper Park Road was generally positive. About half of the impacted residents attended the meeting or provided comments.

In Bowmanville, the majority of residents who attended the Public Information Centre did not support the options presented. Since there were concerns with the street name change, Staff conducted a survey, as suggested by one of the residents. The results of the survey led to greater consensus for the name change to Kings Hill Lane.

Based on the feedback from the public, and the safety concerns, it is Staff's recommendation that both streets be renamed.

## 1. Background

- 1.1. The amalgamation of many townships into what is today known as the Municipality of Clarington, has resulted in many duplicate or similar sounding names. In the mid 90's Bell Canada and the Region of Durham implemented a new 9-1-1 response system which lead to the evaluation of street names in order to eliminate duplicate names which had the potential to cause confusion. King Street was among the street names that were considered, at the time, there were six duplicate King Streets throughout Clarington.
- 1.2. King Street in Haydon became a public street in 1977, Figure 1. It was one of the street names that were considered to change as part of the new 9-1-1 response system. However, at the time, it was decided not to change the name because the municipal addresses in Haydon were in the 8000's, while the Bowmanville addresses along King Street were in the 100's. Also, there was sufficient differentiation between the hamlet and the town.
- 1.3. Since then, Clarington has grown substantially as a municipality, reaching just over 100,000 people. As Clarington grows, it becomes difficult to keep track of, and be aware of, any duplicate street names, unless someone is familiar with the area. It also becomes increasingly important to clearly differentiate street names to avoid any potential errors from occurring in an emergency response. Furthermore, technology has evolved since the 90's. Less people use telephone land lines, rather many residents use cellphones, making the ability to trace a phone call to an address difficult.







**Figure 2 – Existing King Street remnant in Bowmanville under consideration**

## **2. Comments**

- 2.1. Discussions with the Clarington Emergency & Fire Services Department, as well as the Engineering Services Department have indicated that duplicate or similar sounding street names is a public safety concern.
- 2.2. In the past, most 9-1-1 calls were made by landline which are hard wired making it easy to recognize addresses through the automated system. Today, many people use cellular devices as their main phone making it more difficult to pinpoint the person's location. The radius is not always accurate. A recognized road with limited variations, such as Grasshopper Park Road, will eliminate the potential of error and facilitate better response services.
- 2.3. The Region of Durham is an approval authority for naming or renaming streets within the Region. If names sound similar to other names in the Region, the name will be rejected due to the risks or concerns with an error occurring during an emergency response situation. The Region of Durham has been consulted throughout the street renaming process and recommend the renaming of both King streets.

### 3. Public Input

#### Public Information Centres

- 3.1. There were two meetings held in each respective community on June 25th and 26th to provide information on the proposed changes to the street names and obtain input from the affected property owners and tenants. Notice of the Public Information Centre was sent out to all affected residents on June 11, 2019.
- 3.2. The Haydon residents were generally receptive to changing the street name from King Street to Grasshopper Park Road. The majority of them acknowledged the potential safety concerns that could result from having duplicate street names within Clarington. Out of the 22 affected households, 9 people representing 6 households attended the meeting or provided comments. One household expressed opposition to the name change. They stated that it is an inconvenience and that it could be an expensive process to get records updated. Also, many of the residents in Haydon recently went through an address change because Canada Post changed their postal codes earlier this year. Despite this, most residents supported the street name change.
- 3.3. In Bowmanville, the majority of residents who attended the Public Information Centre did not support the proposed street names, some accepted that changing the name but have concerns. A total of 12 people representing 7 households attended the meeting and two property owners provided written submissions. There are 21 affected properties. Some of the comments include:
  - If the street name has to change, residents would prefer it revert back to the “Old Highway 2” name to maintain the history of the road as being part of the main artery. Staff consulted with the Region to revert back to the previous name, but it was rejected due to the similar sounding names in Clarington, as there is a Highway 2 in Courtice.
  - The majority of residents are opposed to Rhonda Boulevard because the address numbers will have to change. Rhonda Boulevard is the existing street that connects with King Street, from the south.
  - Residents would prefer a street name that recognizes the historical significance of the road or the connection to the monarchy by keeping the word “King”.
  - There is already confusion because the name had changed from Old Highway 2 to King Street without the residents being consulted.
  - Many residents expressed concerns with the inconvenience it will cause, and the expense associated with changing documentation and records and felt it was unwarranted.

- 3.4. At the meeting it was suggested that a survey be conducted with different options to gain additional feedback, especially from the residents who were not able to attend the meeting. Since there were concerns with the street name change, staff conducted a survey. The survey was mailed to all affected residents in August 2019. The majority of residents returned the survey, with the exception of 2. Below is a summary of the results of the survey and Attachment 2 contains the full record.

#### **Summary of Survey Results for Bowmanville**

- 3.5. Five options were given to residents to rank in order of their preference (1 representing their most preferred option and 5 being their least preferred). The five options were as follows:
- **Option 1** – No change
  - **Options 2 & 3** – A new street name that contains the word “King”. The Region has approved two names: “Kings Vista” or “Kings Hill Lane”.
    - **Option 2** – Kings Vista
    - **Option 3** – Kings Hill Lane
  - **Option 4** – A completely new street name from the list of approved street names according to the current Clarington Street Naming Policy, which is to name it after a War Dead or War Veteran tied to the local area of Bowmanville.
  - **Option 5**– Continue with the connecting street name, Rhonda Boulevard. This option required a renumbering of the house number, resulting in the replacement of the physical address on the house.
- 3.6. Staff received 23 responses to the survey. Option 1 (no change) was slightly more favourable than Option 3. The split was 60/40, respectively. Of those that wanted to see a change, Option 3 (Kings Hill Lane) was the most favourable. Many residents chose Option 3 (Kings Hill Lane) as either their first or second choice.
- 3.7. It is also interesting to note that seven residents chose “no change” as one of their least favourite options, while only two stated that Option 3 was one of their least favourite (ranked it either a 4 or 5). Three residents did not rank the options at all. They stated that no change was their only preferred option.

## **4. Discussion**

- 4.1. The concerns with the duplicate King Street names was brought to Staff’s attention by the local residents from each respective area. Some residents have stated that they have had an issue with their mail and parcel deliveries. If there are errors being made for deliveries, then there is potential for errors in an emergency response situation.

- 4.2. The Municipality is not necessarily required to eliminate all duplicate street names but does have an obligation to provide unique addressing information for the emergency response system. If an issue has been identified and the municipality is made aware of the situation, it warrants a review and analysis to determine if a name change is necessary.
- 4.3. The most important reason to examine the King Street name duplication is for public safety. It is good practice to eliminate any potential errors for future emergency response incidents. Valuable time may be lost when trying to locate a residence and in these types of situations, every second counts.
- 4.4. To avoid confusion, and potential issues in an emergency, it is recommended that both street names be changed, especially since the Bowmanville King Street remnant is adjacent to the main King Street through Bowmanville. The remnant of King Street under review is physically disconnected from the main road. Having no direct access to the main road could result in someone looking for an address along the main road and missing it since the two roads do not connect.
- 4.5. It is impossible to avoid all errors but if there is an opportunity to reduce the risk, staff believe it should be considered. Therefore, a unique street name should be considered to resolve this issue.
- 4.6. The street renaming in Haydon will affect 22 households, while the street renaming in Bowmanville will affect 21 households. Property owners and/or tenants would receive a goodwill payment for the inconvenience and time associated with the street name change as per the Municipality of Clarington policy regarding Municipally Initiated Street Name Changes.
- 4.7. Since many residents in Bowmanville did not like the continuation of Rhonda Boulevard because their address numbers would also have to change, Staff looked at several other options for the renaming of "King Street", considering the resident's suggestion. Kings Hill Lane was the most popular choice. This keeps the word "King" in the name and ties it to the historical significance of the road.
- 4.8. Staff recognize some property owners are concerned about the inconvenience associated with a change of address. However, staff do not believe it outweighs the risks associated with having duplicate street names.
- 4.9. In addition to the public safety concerns, residents expressed frustration resulting from missed deliveries or billing being sent to the wrong location. A new street name should improve this issue.

- 4.10. Staff recommend the identified segments of King Street in Haydon and Bowmanville be renamed to eliminate the duplicate King Street names. King Street in Haydon would become Grasshopper Park Road, which provides for a continuous street name. The remnant of King Street in Bowmanville would become Kings Hill Lane, keeping the word “King” in the name, which retains the historical connection to Highway 2/King Street and the British monarchy.

## **5. Concurrence**

- 5.1. This report has been reviewed by the Fire Chief who concurs with the recommendations.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1. It is respectfully recommended that the proposed street name changes be approved and that Staff be authorized to distribute the goodwill payments in accordance with the Municipality’s policy for Municipally Initiated Street Name Changes.

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Staff Contact: Nicole Zambri, Planner II, 905-623-3379 ext. 2422 or [nzambri@clarington.net](mailto:nzambri@clarington.net) .

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – By-law

Attachment 2 – Results from survey in Bowmanville

Attachment 3 – Memo from Fire Chief

A list of interested parties is on file with the Planning Services Department.