



TOWN OF NEWCASTLE

REPORT

File # 68.31.1
 Res. # CAPA. 14
 By-Law # _____

MEETING: GENERAL PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

DATE: . NOVEMBER 19, 1990

REPORT #: CS-43-90 FILE #: _____

SUBJECT: PARK NAMING POLICY

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is respectfully recommended that the General Purpose & Administration Committee recommend to Council the following:-

1. That Report No. CS-43-90 be received; and
2. That the attached Park Naming Policy be endorsed.

1.0 BACKGROUND:

1.1 Prior to the formation of the Town of Newcastle, the various Villages and Hamlets which now comprise the Town had little need to identify their local park. Local recreational needs were for the most part met within each community and the naming and signing of parks was unnecessary.

2.0 COMMENTS:

2.1 With regionalization in 1974 which incorporated approximately 235 square miles to form the Town of Newcastle and with the rapid growth experienced over the past few years and expected over the next decade, a more cosmopolitan expectation towards recreational opportunities will be experienced.

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2.2 As development takes place the public will seek these opportunities farther afield and more intensely. This intense use along with the population increase has necessitated the creation of a by-law to regulate and control the proper and intended use of parks and other Town owned lands. To enforce such a by-law, it will be necessary to name and sign the properties. Naming and signing of parks will also enhance the school/park sites as the focal point for neighbourhood identity and will lead ultimately to creating of a sense of community.

3.0 METHODS OF NAMING PARKS:

3.1 From time to time there is a need to recognize historical names, settlers, elected officials, living residents and national heroes who have made a significant contribution to our community, the Province or Country for which special recognition would seem appropriate. To that end the naming of streets, schools, hospitals or airports etc. have been traditional areas where sufficient opportunity for recognition exists. It is suggested that park names on the other hand should be non political, non-sectarian and non-controversial in nature.

3.2 A review of other Durham Region Municipalities has determined that both Whitby and Oshawa have developed an approved policy for naming of parks while Ajax and Pickering's staff recommend to Council suggested names. Either method is equally acceptable. Generally most Municipalities with few exceptions purposely name the park after an abutting school or adjacent street. It has been their experience and belief that to name parks differently than abutting schools and streets, results in the public ignoring the official name in favour of more popular familiar names. Park names which relate to the

adjacent streets or schools are readily identifiable to local and more distant residents alike. It is the intention for the most part to name Town parks after streets, which provide the majority of park frontage.

- 3.3 Some existing parks are currently referred to in such a manner which could lead to some confusion. In the Courtice area for example Courtice West, Courtice South and Courtice Memorial all have similar names. In both Bowmanville and Newcastle two parks exist that are referred to simply as Memorial Park. In such cases it may be recommended to add to or change the names which may cause confusion. However, it will be our intention to retain the existing park names wherever possible. In any event, recommended name changes will be dealt with by separate report to Council.

4.0 CONCLUSION:


- 4.1 The basis of this report was presented to the Parks Committee for their input and is presented to Council with their recommended approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Recommended for presentation
to the Committee



Joseph P. Caruana, Director
Department of Community Services



Lawrence E. Kotseff,
Chief Administrative Officer

JPC:JDC:sa

DN: POLICY.NAM

P O L I C Y

DATE: OCTOBER 1, 1990
DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
DIVISION: OPERATIONS
SECTION: PARKS
SUBJECT: POLICY - NAMING OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

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1.0 GENERAL:

- 1.1 Lands designated parks and open space lands which provide public access and/or have street frontage shall be assigned, known and/or described on legal documents by one official name.
- 1.2 Existing parks and open space lands which have acquired names in common use, shall where possible retain their names.
- 1.3 Where existing parks and open space names may cause confusion because of similar or identical names, the official names will be altered to eliminate any obvious or likely confusion.
- 1.4 Lands designated parks and Open Space lands will be named at the time of draft or final plan approval and shall henceforth be referred to by that name on all legal and planning documents.
- 1.5 Staff shall report to Council if other than an abutting street name is to be used in naming of a park or open space lands.
- 1.6 Council may at its discretion and as it sees fit rename any park or open space.

2.0 PARKS:

- 2.1 Parks will be assigned names similar to the street on which it has its major frontage.
- 2.2 A second park, having its major frontage on a given street and the similar name having been assigned previously, shall have its name selected from a secondary frontage or nearby street as may be appropriate.
- 2.3 All parks shall be named either parks or parkettes. No other classification shall be used in the name, and words like but not limited to, neighbourhood, community district, regional, town, city, hamlet, village, playground, tot lot and playfield will be omitted from the name.

3.0 VALLEYLANDS AND OPEN SPACE LANDS:

- 3.1 Ravines containing strong landmarks such as creeks may be named similar to that landmark.

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- 3.2 Lineal park systems containing pedestrian and bike routes may be referred to as trails.
- 3.3 Open space lands remaining for the most part in their natural state may for the purposes of public identity be referred to as parks.
- 3.4 Open space lands used primarily for storm detention, overland flow routes and other hazard uses shall be named after an abutting street and shall contain the words open space in its name.