

REPORT

REPORT TO: Chair and Members of the Community and Corporate Affairs Committee of Council

REPORT FROM: Kevin Okimi, Manager of Parks and Open Space

DATE: September 3, 2019

REPORT NO.: RP-2019-0028

RE: Henry Thomas Shepherd MBE Park Naming: Dayfoot Drive Park, 45 Dayfoot Drive, Georgetown

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report RP-2019-0028 dated September 3, 2019 regarding Henry Thomas Shepherd MBE Park be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve the naming of Dayfoot Drive Park as Henry Thomas Shepherd, MBE Park in accordance with the Park Naming Policy.

BACKGROUND:

Council approved Park Naming Policy CL-2012-001 in 2012 to provide guidance in the naming of parks or park elements. This Policy outlines the process for residents, Council or staff to request naming of parks or park elements to reflect significant local persons in place of the standard park name. Typically, parks are named after the street on which they are located (E.g. Miller Drive Park).

On June 3, 2019, Council approved Recommendation CCA-2019-0050 which approved the naming of Dayfoot Drive Park as Henry Thomas Shepherd MBE Park in principle, subject to the results of a public notice and consultation period.

COMMENTS:

The purpose of this report is to seek final approval from Council on the park naming request for Henry Thomas Shepherd MBE Park.

Following approval of the park naming in principle, staff undertook a comprehensive public consultation including a public notice in the Independent and Free Press, a mailout to properties within 100m of the park, an on-site notice, and an online consultation through the Town's Let's Talk Halton Hills site.

Through the Let's Talk site, over 400 responses were received. 398 of 403 respondents supported naming a park after Henry Thomas Shepherd. Only 12 respondents had any

concerns about the naming of Dayfoot Drive Park, and none were with respect to the historical Dayfoot name. Of those who had concerns, 8 out of 12 supported the naming of a park in Vision Georgetown as an alternative. Some of those with concerns were very minor concerns (i.e. include more information on military or location is not prominent enough). The summary of the Let's Talk Consultation Report is included as Appendix A.

In addition to the written letters of support from the Lorne Scots (Lt. Colonel Thomas Ruggle), Paul Armstrong, and historical author John McDonald, staff has also received an email supporting the proposal from the Esquering Historical Society.

As previously noted, the proposal aligns with the criteria of the Park Naming Policy, specifically recognizing the historical significance of the individual, and honoring the significant contribution of an individual to the community posthumously. The location of Dayfoot Drive Park is appropriate given the family's years of residence in the area. The inclusion of the initials MBE signifying Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire is an important element of the park naming to the family given the significance of the designation.

As per the Policy, staff will install new park signage with the new park name, and coordinate any plaque or unveiling event with the family and Council. A plaque may be installed at the request/cost of the family through the Town's donation program.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

The content of this report is not directly related to the Corporate Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact as a result of this report. Park staff would install new park signage at nominal cost upon approval of this report.

CONSULTATION:

No additional internal consultation was undertaken as part of this report.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

The public was advised of the intent to rename Dayfoot Drive Park through a posting on site, the Town's website, local newspapers and by written notice to area residents that live within one hundred metres of the park. Over 400 responses were received through the various methods of feedback (Let's Talk and emails), and there was overwhelming support for the proposal.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Town is committed to implementing our Community Sustainability Strategy, Imagine Halton Hills. Doing so will lead to a higher quality of life.

The recommendation outlined in this report advances the Strategy's implementation. This report supports the cultural vibrancy and social well-being pillar(s) of Sustainability and in summary the alignment of this report with the Community Sustainability Strategy is Good.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Staff will advise the family of the final approval of the park naming pending final approval at Council, and will work with Corporate Communications to appropriately announce and celebrate the historical significance and contribution of Henry Thomas Shepherd MBE to the Town. A commemorative event/unveiling may be planned in consultation with the family and the Mayor's Office/Council.

CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that Council approve the naming of Dayfoot Drive Park to Henry Thomas Shepherd MBE Park, in recognition of the legacy of Henry Thomas Shepherd MBE and his contribution to the community and to Canada.

Reviewed and Approved by,



Kevin Okimi, Manager of Parks and Open Space



Warren Harris, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks



Brent Marshall, Chief Administrative Officer