



CITY OF HAMILTON
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Roads & Traffic Division
and
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Recreation Division

TO:	Chair and Members Facility Naming Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 15, 2018
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Naming of The Ray Lewis Track & Field Centre at Mohawk Sports Park (PW18069/HSC18039) (Ward 6) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 6
PREPARED BY:	Sarah Linfoot-Fusina (905) 546-2424, Extension 5516 Steve Sevor (905) 546-2424, Extension 4645
SUBMITTED BY:	Betty Matthews-Malone, P.Eng. Director, Roads & Traffic Public Works Department
SIGNATURE:	
SIGNATURE:	Chris Herstek Director, Recreation Healthy and Safe Communities Department

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the request to name the track and field complex at Mohawk Sports Park The Ray Lewis Track & Field Centre be approved, as this request meets the guidelines set out in the City of Hamilton’s Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy;
- (b) That the Outstanding Business List Item Municipal Property & Building Naming Application - Mohawk Sports Park Outdoor Track & Field Complex be identified as completed and removed from the list.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to a motion made at the May 3, 2018 Facility Naming Sub-Committee meeting:

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

That staff work with the Hamilton Olympic Club to consider their request to rename the track area of the Mohawk Sports Park Outdoor Track & Field Complex as outlined in the application, with a report back to the Facility Naming Sub-Committee.

Born and raised in Hamilton, Ray Lewis was a Canadian track and field athlete who made history in 1932 when he became the first Canadian-born black athlete to win a medal at the Olympics. Lewis faced significant racial prejudice throughout his years as an athlete, but did not let his colour define his success. In later life, Lewis was recognized for his contribution to his community and to the sport of track and field. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 2001. In 2005, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board named an elementary school on the Hamilton mountain after Lewis and in 2010 he was inducted into the Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame. In 2013, the first “Ray Lewis Relays” for high school students were held in Ontario. Lewis died in 2003 in Hamilton at the age of 93.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 5

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Final selection of the sign will be done in consultation with the requestors (Hamilton Olympic Club) and Ward 6 Councillor. The Hamilton Olympic Club will be funding the full costs to fabricate and install signage to the track.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

❖ Mohawk Sports Park, 1100 Mohawk Road East, Hamilton

Mohawk Sports Park, bordered by Mohawk Road East, Mountain Brow Boulevard, Limeridge Road East and Upper Kenilworth Avenue, is a large park that is situated on 57.32 hectares (141.63 acres) of land in Ward 6. The park boasts several facilities, including: baseball and fastball diamonds, soccer, rugby and football fields, a playground, a skateboard ramp and a running track. In 1970, Hamilton’s civic baseball stadium was relocated to this site (when Ivor Wynne Stadium was renovated to accommodate football only) and named Bernie Arbour after a former police sergeant who was the director of Hamilton youth baseball. The east side of the park is a large natural area and a portion of the Escarpment Rail Trail runs through the park. Formerly part of the Upper King’s Forest Park sports area known as Commonwealth Park, this site became known as Mohawk Sports Park in 1971 when it was renamed to commemorate the old Mohawk Trail which had once been part of the property.

❖ Track and Field Complex, 100 Mohawk Road East, Hamilton

The track surface was recently renovated in 2017 through support from the Capital budget process, Ward 6 area rated funds and local contributions from the Golden Horseshoe Track & Field Council. The track at Mohawk Sports Park is the City’s only

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municipal all-weather track and field venue. The track is an impermeable polyurethane sandwich system that is compliant to International Association of Athletics Federation's (IAAF) competition requirements. The track and field facility consists of a 400-meter track with two 100 meter straightaways, amenities for pole vault, an area for throwing events, and an area for jump events. The track and field complex at Mohawk Sports Park is home to a number of community track and field programs, including the Hamilton Olympic Club, Monte Cristo Track & Field Club, HEAT Athletics, Hamilton Special Olympics, Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association, Hamilton Accessible Sports Council, SportHamilton, Hamilton Wildcats, Stoney Creek Athletics and CANUSA Games Hamilton. Hamilton Olympic Club recently celebrated their 90 year anniversary and is the oldest track and field club in Canada; Ray Lewis was a member of the club.

❖ Ray Lewis

Ray Lewis, nicknamed "Rapid Ray" for his lightning fast speed, was a Canadian track and field athlete and the first Canadian-born black Olympic medallist. The great-grandson of escaped slaves, he was born in Hamilton in 1910 to Cornelius Lewis and Emma Green. Lewis showed great promise as a young athlete, excelling at 100, 200, 400 and 800 metre distances. While a student at Hamilton's Central Collegiate, Lewis won 17 national high school championships and set a record for winning four championships in one single day.

Lewis competed in the 400 metre trials for the 1928 Olympic Games but was ultimately not chosen. He decided to accept a scholarship to Milwaukee's Marquette University but returned home after a semester and began working at Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) as a porter – a job that he would hold for 22 years. Not ready to give up on his dream of being a sprinter, Lewis continued training, running alongside the train tracks during stopovers in the Canadian Prairies. Despite significant racial prejudice, Lewis persevered. He joined Canada's Olympic team and competed at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Lewis made history when he won a bronze medal in the 4 x 400 metre relay.

In 1934, Lewis competed at the British Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games), winning a silver medal in the mile relay, 4 x 440 yards. Narrowly missing the cut for Canada's 1936 Olympic team, he ran for two more years until he was forced to retire after a bout with shin splints.

Lewis married Vivienne Jones in 1941 and within a few years, they adopted two sons, Larry and Tony. He retired from CPR and started his own cleaning company in 1952. Lewis was honoured with the Order of Canada in 2001 for "being an inspiration to young people in the community, reminding them that dedication and commitment are values to be cherished." In 2005, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board named an elementary school after Lewis and he was inducted into the Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame in 2010. In 2013, the first Ray Lewis Relays for high school students were held in Ontario. Lewis died in 2003 in Hamilton at the age of 93.

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Lewis overcame unthinkable odds. He broke racial barriers by demonstrating to the world that colour would not define his success. As he got older, Lewis often spoke to school groups about racism and discrimination. He was hopeful for a better future. Lewis was a role model and mentor to many students and young athletes throughout his life. The City of Hamilton honours his achievements and contribution to the Hamilton Sport Community through the annual City of Hamilton Sport Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The Ray Lewis Community Service Award is presented in the adult category to an outstanding Hamilton athlete who has excelled in sport at the national and/or international level and has made a significant contribution to the Hamilton Community.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

This naming request meets the required guidelines as set out in Section 4(b)(ii) of the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Ward 6 Councillor has been consulted and endorses the report recommendation.

Environmental Services has been consulted in the development of this report and report recommendations.

The niece of Ray Lewis supports the proposed naming by Hamilton Olympic Club.

Letters in support of the recommendation have been received from 91st Highlanders Athletic Association, Hamilton Accessible Sports Council, Hamilton Elite Athletic Team, Hamilton Olympic Club, Monte Cristo Track and Field Club, Special Olympics Hamilton, and Sport Hamilton who are among the users of the facility.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

At the January 20, 2016 meeting, Council approved Report PW05142(b) to the Facility Naming Sub-Committee regarding the “City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.” The policy serves to establish guidelines and regulations for naming property and buildings owned by the City of Hamilton.

The City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy has the following Property Listing categories from which proposed names for municipal properties and buildings may be selected: geographic, historic, and prominent individuals/organizations (listed in priority order).

Section 4(b)(ii) of the policy details the ‘Prominent’ category. It includes, in part, eligibility for names affiliated with individuals who have made a significant contribution to the community/city in one or more of the following areas:

- Service in a voluntary or philanthropic capacity or having made a significant contribution in the following areas: environment, agriculture, arts, co-operatives, education, business or industry, journalism, medicine, politics, religion, science, public service, recreation or sports on a local, national, or international scale.

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There has not been any other request for naming of the track that Recreation is aware of. With the overwhelming support from all the track and field entities, along with the inclusion of the Ray Lewis award as noted within, there appears to be no negative issues with the proposed name.

As Ray Lewis made a significant contribution to his community and to sports on the local and international level, the proposed naming meets the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council may decide not to approve the proposed naming of the track at Mohawk Sports Park. Staff does not recommend this alternative as it does not address the intent of the motion and desire to recognize Ray Lewis' contribution to the community and to the sport of track and field.

Council may also decide to consider another naming opportunity that would recognize Ray Lewis' contribution to the community and to the sport of track and field. Staff would not recommend this alternative as it does not address the intent of the motion.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement & Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A: Map of Proposed The Ray Lewis Track & Field Centre at Mohawk Sports Park

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