

Recreation Area's Future Assured

Assurances of continued federal and provincial assistance in developing Confederation Park were given at the official opening of the 173 acre lakefront recreational area yesterday.

John Munro, MP for Hamilton East and a former member of city council who spark-plugged the project, said that all Hamiltonians could be "proud of this beautiful park."

"I CAN ASSURE the city that the federal government will co-operate in its future development," Mr. Munro declared.

The Hon. J. W. Spooner, Ontario's minister of municipal affairs, said the park was an example of what can be accomplished when a municipality "acts with decision and determination to remedy its physical blemishes."

He said that if the province

was to increase its contribution to urban renewal, it was only fair to expect the municipalities in return to tighten up their controls and bylaws.

"WITHOUT such safeguards to complement our contribution we shall be doing little better than watering the deserts with a garden hose," Mr. Spooner commented.

He said the province recognized the problems of municipalities with blighted areas and had demonstrated its willingness to assist them.

"But while we are eager to rectify these errors of the past, the provincial government cannot go on forever financing the blunders of yesterday," he insisted.

MAYOR VIC COPPS assured him that the city intended to ensure that money spent on urban renewal here was an investment rather than a waste of money.

"We need long range planning to make these investments really worthwhile however," he declared.

Tribute was paid to Mr. Munro, former mayor Lloyd Jackson and ex-controller Jack MacDonald for their efforts in making the park a reality. Mr. Munro made special mention of the late deputy city clerk, Walter Griffin, for his contribution and suggest-

ed that some remembrance of him be included in the park.

HE ALSO praised Mrs. Stanley E. Parker, Women's Civic Club president who first suggested the park idea to him.

Ald. Reg. Wheeler, chairman of the beach committee, introduced the speakers and invited all present to join council members in a picnic at the park. Music was provided by the Delta Secondary School band.

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At Park

Mrs. Parker Remembered With Plaque

Hundreds of adults and children who enjoy the facilities of Confederation Park do so thanks, in part, to the late Mrs. Stanley Parker.

YESTERDAY, Mrs. Parker's memory was commemorated by the unveiling of a plaque which reads, "In 1958 Mrs. Parker put forth a proposal that a lakeshore park should be developed in this area. Her proposal was brought to the attention of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Hamilton and eventually resulted in the establishment of Confederation Park."

The plaque, set on a stone dug from the Park grounds and now placed on the lawn by the main entrance, was unveiled by Alderman Reg Wheeler, chairman of the council's beach committee, and dedicated by Controller Ann Jones. The inscription was read out by Mrs. Victor Copps.

Watching the ceremony was Mrs. Parker's husband, of 62 Carrick Avenue, and the couple's seven sons and two of their three daughters, together with eight grandchildren.

Mrs. Parker, who died in January, 1964, lived in the area near the park for 14 years. The suggestion that recognition be given to her work in persuading the council to turn the area, then farmland, into a park, was made by the Hamilton Women's Civic Club.