




**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**Environmental Services Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Facility Naming Sub-Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	November 8, 2021
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Naming of Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex, 105 North Service Road, Hamilton (PW21059) (Ward 5)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 5
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Victoria Cox (905) 546-2424, Extension2292
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Cynthia Graham Acting Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (a) That the sports park (internally referred to as Confederation Beach Park Sports Park) located at 105 North Service Road, be named Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex;
- (b) That the approval of Jennie Florence Parker's living relatives be accepted as a variation to the requirement in the City of Hamilton's Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy which currently requires the approval of a deceased individual's legal representative before naming a City of Hamilton property, building or feature in recognition of a deceased individual, and;
- (c) That the City of Hamilton's Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy be revised to also permit one of a deceased's living relatives to approve the naming of a City of Hamilton property, building or feature after a deceased individual in cases where the deceased's legal representative does not exist or is not immediately available.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Confederation Beach Park Sports Park is located in the eastern section of the larger Confederation Beach Park. Confederation Beach Park is a 93-hectare (228-acre) city-wide park, located along the Lake Ontario waterfront between the Hamilton Beach Strip and Grays Road in Stoney Creek. The park offers a variety of all-ages recreation and relaxation opportunities, numerous dining and entertainment options, and several significant woodlots and naturalized areas. The location of the site is shown in Appendix "A" attached to Report PW21059.

In 1958 Jennie Florence Parker (1902 – 1965) proposed to civic leaders that a waterfront park be constructed in the City of Hamilton's (City) east end which resulted in the creation of Confederation Beach Park. Her initial contribution to the Park was recognized with a plaque affixed to a rock that is currently located within Confederation Beach Park at the entrance to Wild Waterworks. It was unveiled in 1967; however, she is referred to as Mrs. Stanley Parker, her husband's given name.

The new sports park has not been formally named Confederation Beach Park Sports Park but has been referred to as this by staff for identification and tracking purposes during capital budgeting and staff reporting. The name Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex was proposed for consideration through a motion at the Facilities Naming Subcommittee on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The City's Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy currently requires the approval of a deceased individual's 'legal representative' before naming a City property in recognition of a deceased individual.

Jennie Florence Parker's grandson, Gary Parker, has advised City staff that Jennie Parker passed away on January 22, 1965 and that her husband, Stanley Parker, passed away on January 8, 1977 leaving no estate. As a result, there is no identifiable legal representative for Jennie Florence Parker or her estate. However, Jennie Florence Parker's living relatives, Gary Parker and Grant Parker, have approved the naming of the Confederation Beach Park Sports Park located at 105 North Service Road as the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex.

The plaque and rock currently located at the entrance to Wild Waterworks will be kept but relocated and placed within the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex. Heritage Resource Staff recommended this approach as it speaks to social history and naming conventions in the past. The name Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex honours and recognizes Jennie Florence Parker for her contribution to the establishment of Confederation Beach Park and is compliant with the Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

**Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 5**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: Included in the Confederation Beach Park Sports Park Project (PID# 4401356801) is funding for signage at the entrances. The existing plaque/rock will be moved approximately 800 metres to the entrance of the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex. It is estimated the cost of \$1,500 to move the rock will be covered by the Confederation Beach Park Sports Project (PID#4401356801).

Staffing: not applicable

Legal: The Parker family has provided written consent and are in support of the name as per the criteria in the Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

In the 1950s the area now known as Confederation Beach Park was predominantly covered by agricultural and residential lands. The area was regularly buffeted with winter storms and the shoreline was beginning to erode. In 1957 local authorities deemed several homes in the area unfit for habitation due to these conditions. Furthermore, local industry was beginning to encroach on the lands and pollution was impacting the area.

Jennie Florence Parker, President of the Hamilton Women's Civic Club, proposed the idea that this area along the shoreline should be turned into a public park for residents from all over the City to enjoy. In 1958, Jennie Parker presented this idea to civic leaders including City of Hamilton (City) Council and Alderman John Munro as summarized in the articles in Appendix "B" and Appendix "C" attached to Report PW21059. The leaders liked the idea and began to work with Mayor Lloyd Jackson on the plan. In 1959, 87 acres of land along the shoreline was expropriated for the park, and with support from the provincial and federal government, Confederation Park opened in 1964. The park, now called Confederation Beach Park, is an important recreation and tourism destination in Hamilton and surrounding area.

Jennie Florence Parker passed away on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1965. Her initial contribution to the Park was recognized with a plaque affixed to a rock that was unveiled in 1967 and is located at the entrance to Wild Waterworks, a waterpark located within Confederation Beach Park. On the plaque she was referred to as Mrs. Stanley Parker, her husband's given name.

In 2011, the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) submitted the Confederation Park Master Plan Review and Update (dated August 2010) to the City, proposing a capital program to fund necessary upgrades, life-cycle replacements, and new park features. To address these requests, the City is now working to prioritize and implement short and long-term goals as part of the Confederation Beach Park Implementation strategy, presented to Public Works Committee on August 11, 2016 through Report PW11005(d). One of the short-term goals from Report PW11005(d) was to construct a sports park in the former campground near Grays Road.

Construction for Confederation Beach Park Sports Park was broken into three phases, with phase one completed in 2020. Phase one included a regulation cricket field, multi-use soccer field, 12 pickle ball courts with lighting, the east parking lot and improvements to the North Service Road access. Phases two and three include a new fieldhouse with entry plaza, a naturalized playground, two cricket batting cages, a park maintenance building, a large parking area and internal pathways. Construction for phases two and three started in spring 2021 and it is anticipated that it will be completed and ready for the 2023 playing season.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

The Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy is the policy related to the naming of parkland.

Recommendations (b) and (c) of Report PW21059 are a result of the legal review of the policy and determination by staff that an update to the policy would accommodate future situations where deceased individuals' legal representative may also be deceased, and therefore exclude them from consideration for naming of municipal property.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

The Ward 5 Councillor has been consulted and is supportive of the recommendation.

The following groups also have been consulted and are supportive of the recommendation:

Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division Parks and Cemeteries Section  
Family Members Gary Parker and Grant Parker

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Naming of Jennie Florence Sports Complex, 105 North Service Road, Hamilton (PW21059) (Ward 5) - Page 5 of 6**

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As Confederation Beach Park Sports Park is partially constructed, with phase one complete and phases two and three underway, this is an appropriate time to establish an official name for the park.

The Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy outlines the criteria for consideration of the names of municipal properties and buildings, including parkland. The policy outlines general guidelines, including that the names should give a sense of place, maintain long-standing local area identification with residents, and be consistent with other policies and standards such as not duplicating park names. In order of priority, names should be associated with geographic affiliation, historic affiliation, and/or prominent individuals or organizations.

The name Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex would meet the criteria for an appropriate name as outlined in the policy as it recognizes Jennie Florence Parker, a prominent individual that made a significant contribution to the City with her idea to establish a waterfront park, now known as Confederation Beach Park. She also served in a voluntary capacity in a community organization as the President of the Hamilton Civic Women's Club. Her contribution is well documented, she has a documented relationship with the park, family members are supportive of the proposed name and she has an honourable reputation.

It has been confirmed that no other park in the City is named Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex.

The City's Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy currently requires the approval of a deceased individual's legal representative before naming a City property in recognition of a deceased individual.

Jennie Florence Parker's grandson, Gary Parker, has advised City staff that Jennie Parker passed away on January 22, 1965 and that her husband, Stanley Parker, passed away on January 8, 1977 leaving no estate. As a result, there is no identifiable legal representative for Jennie Florence Parker or her estate. However, Jennie Florence Parker's living relatives, Gary Parker and Grant Parker, have approved the naming of the Confederation Beach Park Sports Park located at 105 North Service Road as the Jennie Florence Parker Sports Complex.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

If the Recommendation (a) for Report PW21059 is not approved, an alternative is to formally designate the new park the Confederation Beach Park Sports Complex.

Financial: not applicable

Staffing: not applicable

Legal: not applicable

## **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Community Engagement and 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

### **Clean and Green**

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

### **Culture and Diversity**

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix “A” to Report PW21059- Map of Confederation Beach Park and Sports Park

Appendix “B” to Report PW21059 - Hamilton Spectator Article July 18, 1992

Appendix “C” to Report PW21059 - Hamilton Spectator Article June 26, 1964







**The stormy beach became a placid park - Hamilton Spectator, The (Ontario, Canada) - July 18, 1992 - page C2**

July 18, 1992 | Hamilton Spectator, The (Ontario, Canada) | Mike Hanley; THE SPECTATOR | Page C2

'A **YOUNG alderman's dream of** a summer playground for Hamilton's industrial workers and their families became a reality today.'

-- Hamilton Spectator,

April 9, 1958

WHEN **THE** Hamilton City Council voted to **expropriate 86 acres of land on the shore of Lake Ontario, including Van Wagner's Beach and Crescent Beach**, Alderman John Munro was successful in initiating the development which became known as Confederation Park.

For years, the cottages at **Van Wagner's Beach and Crescent Beach** had taken an annual battering from vicious storms whipping off the lake. Not only had the cottages suffered, but the rocky and debris-laden shoreline was fast eroding.

In 1957, living conditions in the area were investigated by the city's building department, health department, fire prevention bureau, and the assessment department. As a result, several of the houses were listed as unfit for habitation.

Community-minded citizens, notably Mrs. Stanley Parker, Women's Civic Club president, along with others who cared about the **Beach Strip**, began to push for a shoreline park, a broad, clean expanse of bathing and picnic areas for average citizen.

**Alderman John Munro** had taken a personal interest in the scheme and took the idea to Mayor Lloyd Jackson, who enthusiastically endorsed the plan.

**Munro** called the beach park idea 'a wonderful thing for the people of this city, especially those who are unable to get away during the hot weather.'

'The beach could be cleaned up and the sand sifted. Properly-constructed, clean bathhouses can be provided to give people a proper place to change. Parking space for cars could also be provided,' **Munro** said.

About 700 people were eventually uprooted by the decision to turn **Van Wagner's Beach and Crescent Beach** into a recreation area, but most seemed to think it was a good idea.

Saltfleet Township councillor J.W. Haylock, whose home was on **Van Wagner's Beach**, termed the development 'a wonderful scheme for the people of the city. This means I will be eventually pushed out of house and home, but then we were expecting that. It didn't exactly come as a bombshell.'



In February 1959, an additional 87 acres were slated for expropriation as part of the beach park scheme. Controller Jack Macdonald had been successful in encouraging the provincial and federal governments to financially support the project, thereby reducing the costs of land acquisition and clearance.

At a February 1963 meeting of the Board of Control, Alderman Reg Wheeler, chairman of the beach committee, urged the city to 'get the project going.' He then moved a recommendation calling for the construction of a parking lot, and a building to house a restaurant, change rooms and washrooms.

On June 25, 1964, Hamilton's lakefront recreation area known as Confederation Park was officially opened at a ceremony chaired by Wheeler.

Munro, by then the federal MP for Hamilton East, told the assembled that 'all Hamiltonians could be proud of this beautiful park.'

In his speech that day, Mayor Vic Copps paid tribute to Munro and Macdonald for their efforts in making the park a reality.

Three years later, on Aug. 15, 1967, Wheeler unveiled a plaque at Confederation Park recognizing Mrs. Parker. Geraldine Copps was asked to read out the inscription which noted that Mrs. Parker's proposal 'eventually resulted in the establishment of Confederation Park.'

#### CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

Mike Hanley, THE SPECTATOR, 'The stormy beach became a placid park', *Hamilton Spectator, The* (online), 18 Jul 1992 C2 <<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/10B0FE03562A5CB8>>

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# 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.

Hamilton Spectator  
June 26, 1964  
Page 1 of 2

52

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.