

Hamilton

FACILITY NAMING SUB-COMMITTEE

REPORT 13-001

Thursday, July 18, 2013

9:30 a.m.

Room 264

Hamilton City Hall

Present: Councillor M. Pearson, Chair
Councillors L. Ferguson, S. Merulla

Absent with Councillor T. Jackson
Regrets: Councillor T. Whitehead

THE FACILITY NAMING SUB-COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 13-001 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

- 1. Renaming of Skyway Park to Reg Wheeler Park (PW13052) (Ward 5) (Item 4.1)**

That the request to rename the park site located at 189 Beach Boulevard (refer to Appendix "A" to Report PW13052) commonly known as Skyway Park to Reg Wheeler Park, be approved as the request meets the approval of the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

- 2. Renaming of Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park (PW13051) (Ward 4) (Outstanding Business List Item) (Item 4.2)**

That the request to rename the park site commonly known as Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park, located at 1570 Lucerne Avenue (refer to Appendix "A" attached to Report PW13051), be denied as this time as this request does not meet the approval of the MacDonald family.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The agenda was approved, as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) November 8, 2012

The minutes from the November 8, 2012 meeting were approved.

(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 4)

(i) Renaming of Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park (PW13051) (Ward 4) (Outstanding Business List Item) (Item 4.2)

The item dealing with renaming a park in memory of Jack MacDonald was removed from the Facility Naming Sub-Committee's Outstanding Business List.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 5)

With there being no further business, the Facility Naming Sub-Committee adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor M. Pearson, Chair
Facility Naming Sub-Committee

Christopher Newman
Legislative Coordinator



Hamilton

CITY OF HAMILTON

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Corporate Assets & Strategic Planning Division

TO: Chair and Members Facility Naming Sub-Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARD 5
COMMITTEE DATE: July 18, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Renaming of Skyway Park to Reg Wheeler Park (PW13052) (Ward 5)	
SUBMITTED BY: Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department	PREPARED BY: Lynda Mackay (905) 546-2424, Extension 2996
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

That the request to rename the park site located at 189 Beach Boulevard (refer to Appendix "A" to Report PW13052) commonly known as Skyway Park to Reg Wheeler Park be approved as this request meets the approval of the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to a request from the Facility Naming Sub-Committee that staff investigate the possibility of renaming Skyway Park after long time Beach Boulevard resident, Mr. Reg Wheeler.

Mr. Reg Wheeler

Mr. Reg Wheeler (1918-2012) was a very well known Beach Boulevard resident and Hamilton contributor, given nicknames such as "Mayor of the Beach Strip" and "Mr. Hamilton". Mr. Wheeler was alderman for Ward 5 from 1960-1985 and again from 1988-1991. He played Canadian Football League (CFL) football for the Flying Wildcats, now known as the Hamilton Tiger Cats, was chairman of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, rowed for the Leander Boat Club's Olympic Team and paid 47 years of service to Dofasco as Foreman in the melt shop. Mr. Wheeler was also a long time brethren of

**SUBJECT: Renaming of Skyway Park to Reg Wheeler Park
(PW13052) - (Ward 5) - Page 2 of 4**

the Ancient Landmarks Doric Lodge, a member of the Probus Club, and East Hamilton Kiwanis Club.

Skyway Park

Skyway Park is a passive 0.54 acre parkette located on the East side of Beach Boulevard. Named for its location near the Burlington Skyway, this park contains a play structure, swings, walkways and some trees.

Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 5

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are no financial implications for this recommendation as the \$200 cost associated with the fabrication and installation of the park name sign will be covered by the requestor.

Staffing: Park staff will be required to install and maintain the signage as part of regular park maintenance activities.

Legal: There are no legal implications.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The information/recommendation contained within this report directly affects Ward 5 residents as Skyway Park is located within this ward, however the impact may be greater as this park also runs alongside the Hamilton Beach Recreation Trail, part of the 780 kilometre Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail network.

Mr. Reg Wheeler

Mr. Reg Wheeler (1918-2012) was a very well known Beach Boulevard resident and Hamilton contributor, given nicknames such as "Mayor of the Beach Strip" and "Mr. Hamilton". He was alderman for Ward 5 from 1960-1985 and again from 1988-1991. He played Canadian Football League (CFL) football for the Flying Wildcats, now known as the Hamilton Tiger Cats, was chairman of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, rowed for the Leander Boat Club's Olympic Team and paid 47 years of service to Dofasco as Foreman in the melt shop. Mr. Wheeler was also a long time brethren of the Ancient Landmarks Doric Lodge, a member of the Probus Club, and East Hamilton Kiwanis Club.

In 2001, Mr. Reg Wheeler was inducted into the Gallery of Distinction where the plaque reads:

"Mr. Reg Wheeler (1918-2012) might well be called "Mr. Hamilton" given his participation in such well-known Hamilton pursuits such as playing football and making steel. But he would also earn the title for his passionate advocacy for the city itself, and most particularly, for the residents of its north end.

Reg was born in Hamilton in 1918 and attended Ryerson Public and Westdale Secondary schools. His athletic prowess became evident in high school where he excelled at both rowing and football. But football became his main focus when local sports entrepreneur Sam Manson urged him to join the Flying Wildcat Football Club (a forerunner to the Tiger Cats), where he played defensive tackle. Reg claims his "fists of steel" prevented opponents from fouling him more than once. In 1938 Reg joined Dofasco where he worked as a melter on furnaces and on the open hearth.

Reg caught the political bug in the 1950s when he ran unsuccessfully for Member of Parliament for Wentworth County. In 1960 he was elected as the city's east-end alderman – a ward he held until 1985 and again from 1988 to 1991. He was a member of the first regional council and, as chair of the Engineering Committee, pushed for the construction of the Burlington Street overpass, new bridges at the west entrance of the city and other important structural projects. A proud resident of the Beach Strip since 1941, Reg made it his mission to speak up for Hamilton's harbourfront residents on issues that affected them.

Reg maintained an active presence in community affairs, including advisory committees for St. Joseph's Health Care, Third Sector Recycling, Hamilton East Kiwanis Club and the Probus Club, and was chair of the Induction Dinner Committee for the Football Hall of Fame. Reg and his wife Grace have three children and 10 grandchildren."

Skyway Park

Skyway Park is a passive 0.54 acre parkette located on the East side of Beach Boulevard, north of Fletcher Avenue. Named for its location near the Burlington Skyway, this park contains a play structure, swings, walkways and some trees.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

This renaming request can be considered as per the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy. The request meets the Policy Naming Criteria and Guidelines as set out in Section 4. (b) (iii) as detailed in the Analysis/Rationale for Recommendations section of this report.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Members of the Wheeler family have provided background information on Mr. Wheeler's contributions to the City of Hamilton. Staff have also consulted Councillor Pearson, Councillor Collins, and members of the Facility Naming Sub-Committee in the drafting of this report. All are in support of this recommendation.

The recommendation contained within this report is in compliance with the recommendations of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and regulations.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Policy Requirements

Council, at its meeting of December 14, 2005, approved the Strategic Planning and Budgets Report 05-014 which included Report 05-006 of the Facility Naming Sub-Committee Item 8.3 "City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy".

This policy serves to establish guidelines and regulations for the naming of municipal property and buildings in the City of Hamilton.

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

The Prominent Individual/Organization category, Section 4. (b) (iii), states that, names affiliated with individuals or organization may include, but are not limited to individuals who, in a voluntary or philanthropic capacity, have made a significant contribution in the area of public service on a local, national, or international scale.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Council may decide to deny the request to rename Skyway Park after Mr. Wheeler, or Council may decide to name a different park after Mr. Wheeler.

As the proposed naming conforms to the Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy, staff would not recommend any alternatives to the report recommendation.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

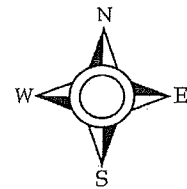
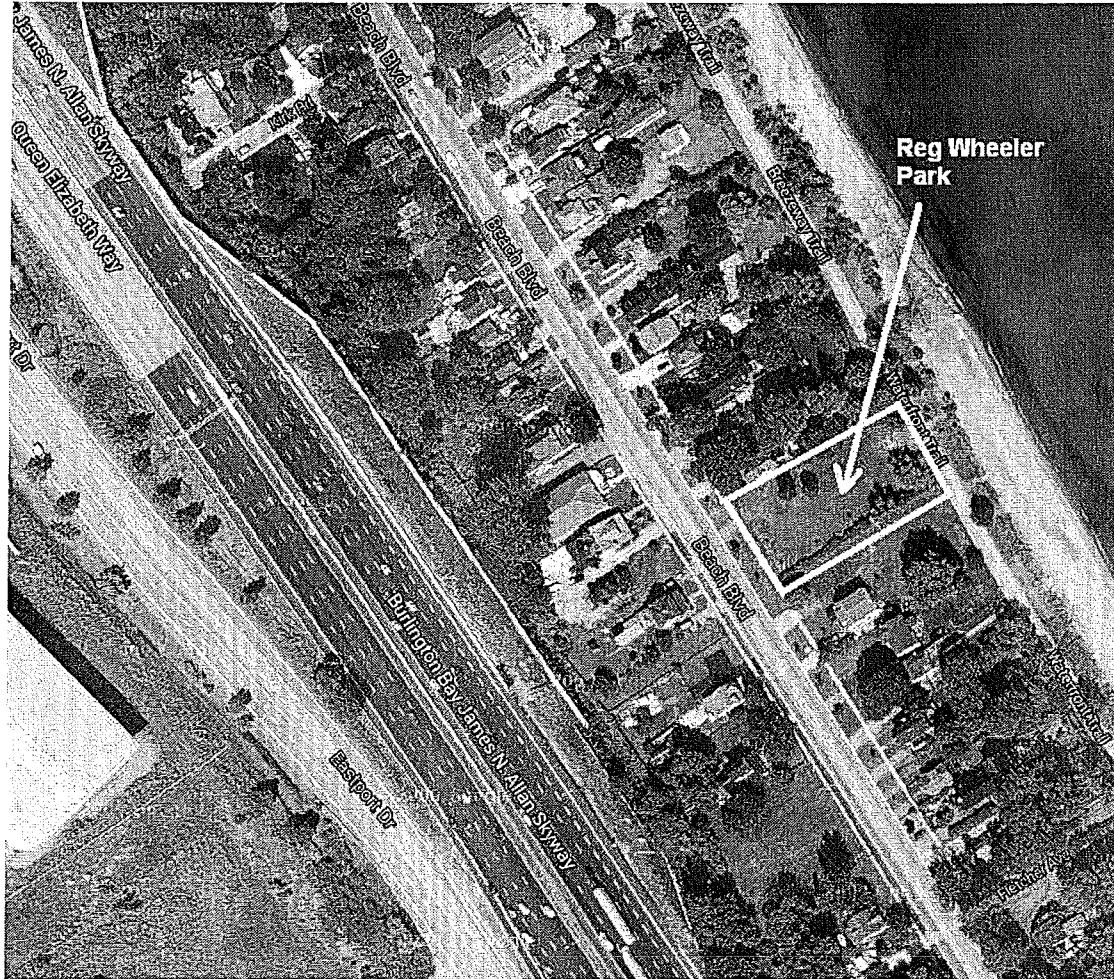
Strategic Objective

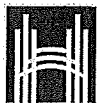
2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

Appendix "A" - Aerial View of Skyway Park

Aerial View
Skyway Park - 189 Beach Blvd.
(East of the QEW, North of Fletcher Avenue)





Hamilton

CITY OF HAMILTON

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Corporate Assets and Strategic Planning Division

TO: Chair and Members Facility Naming Sub-Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: WARD 4
COMMITTEE DATE: July 18, 2013	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Renaming of Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park (PW13051) (Ward 4) (Outstanding Business List Item)	
SUBMITTED BY: Gerry Davis, CMA General Manager Public Works Department	PREPARED BY: Lynda Mackay (905) 546-2424, Extension 2996
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the request to rename the park site commonly known as Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park, located at 1570 Lucerne Avenue (refer to Appendix "A" attached to Report PW13051), be denied at this time as this request does not meet the approval of the MacDonald family.
- (b) That the item dealing with renaming a park in memory of Jack MacDonald be removed from the Facilities Naming Subcommittee's outstanding business list.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to a recommendation from Council at the Facility Naming Sub-Committee meeting on May 3, 2012, that staff investigate renaming the Red Hill Bowl after City of Hamilton resident and former Mayor, Mr. Jack MacDonald.

Red Hill Bowl

The Red Hill Bowl, 1570 Lucerne Avenue, is a sports park with three softball fields and a portion of the Red Hill Valley Recreation Trail passes through this park. It was named for its bowl-shaped appearance and its location within the Red Hill Valley. Previously known as Laundry Park for the former owner, Red Hill Bowl was acquired by the Parks Board in a trade with the City for property on Nash Road North on September 9, 1960.

OUR Vision: To be the best place in Canada to raise a child, promote innovation, engage citizens and provide diverse economic opportunities.

OUR Mission: WE provide quality public service that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Values: Accountability, Cost Consciousness, Equity, Excellence, Honesty, Innovation, Leadership, Respect and Teamwork

**SUBJECT: Renaming of Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park
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The pedestrian bridge across the Red Hill Creek was constructed in 1979, and steps were installed from the Lucerne Avenue entrance into the Red Hill Bowl in 1980.

Mr. John A. MacDonald

Mr. John A. (Jack) MacDonald was the Mayor of the City Of Hamilton from 1976-1980, supporter of the Red Hill Parkway, and instrumental in the construction of Jackson Square and Copps Coliseum, always hoping for a National Hockey League (NHL) team for his beloved city.

Mr. MacDonald became the youngest person elected to public office in Canada when he won a seat on Hamilton council in 1950 at the age of 22. He became controller in 1953, serving in different capacities until 1970. In 1976 he was elected as the Mayor of the City of Hamilton and served in this capacity until 1980.

Sadly, Mr. MacDonald passed away on May 5, 2010.

Alternatives for Consideration - See Page 4

FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: There are no financial implications.

Staffing: There are no staffing implications.

Legal: There are no legal implications.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The information/recommendation contained within this report primarily affects Ward 4.

Mr. John A. MacDonald

Mr. John A. (Jack) MacDonald was born in 1927 in London, Ontario and moved to Hamilton in 1942. At 16 years of age, Mr. MacDonald joined the Canadian Navy and became a torpedo man during the Second World War. After the war, he apprenticed as a plumber, and started his own heating and cooling business in 1951.

A colourful and outspoken politician, Mr. MacDonald became the youngest person elected to public office in Canada when he won a seat on Hamilton Council in 1950 at the age of 22. Mr. MacDonald became controller in 1953, serving in different capacities until 1970. In 1976 Mr. MacDonald won the election for Mayor of the City of Hamilton and was re-elected in 1978.

During his extensive career in politics Mr. MacDonald championed the construction of Jackson Square Mall, endorsed the building of an NHL-capacity arena that became Copps Coliseum when it was built in 1985, and saw the completion of his long-time pet infrastructure project the Red Hill Valley Parkway in 2007.

During his illustrious career Mr. MacDonald was honoured with numerous awards, including:

**SUBJECT: Renaming of Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park
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- 1973 - Distinguished Citizen of the Year for community work;
- 1983 - Fred McAllister Award for being the Outstanding Kiwanian in Eastern Canada and the Caribbean;
- 1993 - Inducted into the Gallery of Distinction;
- Received a honorary doctorate from McMaster University.

Mr. MacDonald was more than just a politician; he was a columnist for the Hamilton Spectator during the 1990's until he retired in 2002; he helped found the present day Kiwanis Club of Hamilton East, serving as its president; was a founding member of the board of Kiwanis Non-Profit Homes Corporation; and was president of the Boys and Girls Club in 1971. In addition, Mr. MacDonald chaired the capital campaign to rebuild the Downtown Branch of the YMCA of Hamilton-Burlington and sat on the YMCA Board of Governors.

Mr. MacDonald's volunteer service includes such positions as: Chairman of the United Appeal, Vice-Chairman of the Health Disciplines Board of the Province of Ontario, Chairman for United Services, Chair of the 1970 Keep Football in Hamilton Committee, assisted in the creation of Opera Hamilton, and tirelessly worked on the Grey Cup Festival.

Red Hill Bowl

The Red Hill Bowl, 1570 Lucerne Avenue, is a sports park with three softball fields and a portion of the Red Hill Valley Recreation Trail passes through this park. It was named for its bowl-shaped appearance and its location within the Red Hill Valley. Previously known as Laundry Park for the former owner, Red Hill Bowl was acquired by the Parks Board in a trade with the City for property on Nash Road North on September 9, 1960. The pedestrian bridge across the Red Hill Creek was constructed in 1979, and steps were installed from the Lucerne Avenue entrance into the Red Hill Bowl in 1980.

On November 3, 2007, the Opening Ceremonies for the Red Hill Valley Parkway were held in the Red Hill Bowl. Mayor Fred Eisenberger, representatives from the Province, several former and current members of Council, former Lieutenant-Governor Lincoln Alexander, City staff and the local community were in attendance.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS/LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

This renaming request can be considered as per the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy. The request meets the Policy Naming Criteria and Guidelines as set out in Section 4. (b) (iii) as detailed in the Analysis/Rationale for Recommendations section of this report.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

The Ward Councillor has been consulted in the drafting of this report. The Facility Naming Sub-Committee has also been consulted to ensure the request is aligned with the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

Members of the MacDonald family are not in favour of renaming the Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park.

ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Policy Requirements

Council, at its meeting of December 14, 2005, approved the Strategic Planning and Budgets Report 05-014 which included Report 05-006 of the Facility Naming Sub-Committee Item 8.3 "City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy".

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Although the proposal to rename the Red Hill Bowl meets the criteria within the Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy, staff does not support the proposed renaming of the Red Hill Bowl to Jack MacDonald Park as per the wishes of the MacDonald family.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

There are no alternatives for consideration at this time.

It is the opinion of staff that the proposed naming conforms to the Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy but does not meet the approval of the MacDonald family and therefore should not be approved.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2012 - 2015 STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #2

Valued & Sustainable Services

WE deliver high quality services that meet citizen needs and expectations, in a cost effective and responsible manner.

Strategic Objective

2.2 Improve the City's approach to engaging and informing citizens and stakeholders.

APPENDICES / SCHEDULES

Appendix "A" - Aerial View of Red Hill Bowl

Aerial View of Red Hill Bowl
East of Parkdale Avenue South and South of Queenston Road

