

STAFF REPORT: Administration

REPORT TO: Finance and Administration
MEETING DATE: October 20, 2009
REPORT NO.: DOR.09.57
SUBJECT: Naming and Re-naming of Town Facilities
PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt, Director of Recreation,
 Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.09.57, "Naming and Re-naming of Town Facilities" for information purposes and authorize that public riverfront parkland located at Heathcote south, part Lot 23, Concession 12, be named "George South Memorial Park".

B. Background

In early summer of 2009, Council received requests to name and re-name Town facilities and directed Staff to proceed in both matters. In accordance with the Town Policy for Naming and Re-naming of Town Parks, Open Space, Trails and Facilities, input was sought from residents and the public regarding the proposed facility names. The proposed naming and re-naming were as follows:

1. Public riverfront parkland, Heathcote south, part Lot 23, Concession 12, is proposed to be named "George South Memorial Park". George South owned a general store in Heathcote for 30 years and later opened a farm equipment business there. George South was a former Reeve of Collingwood Township and former Warden of Grey County and was very active in community life, including 67 years membership in the Rotary Club of Thornbury Clarksburg.
2. Beaver Valley Arena, Thornbury, is proposed to be re-named "Cecil Dillon Memorial Arena". Cecil Dillon grew up in Thornbury and went on to a stellar career in the National Hockey League with the New York Rangers. Cecil Dillon scored 20 goals or more per season six times and was a three time all-star, as well as the leading scorer when the New York Rangers won the Stanley Cup in 1933.

The Town Policy for Naming and Re-naming considers requests for names of individuals based on guidelines including "a significant contribution to the quality of life in the Town" and "a significant historical or cultural connection to the Town".

Following publication of the intent to name and re-name, one message of support was received for naming the Heathcote park as George South Memorial Park.

One message of support was also received for re-naming the Beaver Valley Arena as the Cecil Dillon Memorial Arena. Ten messages in opposition were received for the re-naming. It should be noted none of the messages displayed any objection to or noted concern with the memory of Cecil Dillon, rather, all noted support for the current name of Beaver Valley Community Centre as it refers to the Beaver Valley Athletic Association, Beaver Valley Kinsmen and all residents of the Beaver Valley who fundraised and help build the facility.

One message in opposition noted the writer in their youth had the privilege to have had Cecil Dillon as a hockey coach and recalled that if Cecil had heard of the proposed re-naming, he would likely have laughed and said "No way".

Given the messages of support in retaining the current name of Beaver Valley Community Centre, Staff will not make a recommendation to proceed with a re-naming. Given the current display of Cecil Dillon's hockey memorabilia in the Community Centre, Council may consider an expanded display or creation of storyboards reflecting his career.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

3.4 Develop information and educational initiatives to promote cultural heritage.

D. Environmental Impacts

None

E. Budget Impact

Site Signage required (none at present and would be part of park development no matter what the name selected).

F. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

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