

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - SEPTEMBER 20, 2004**

### **SPRINGSIDE PARK – PROPOSED RENAMING**

#### **Recommendation**

The Director of Recreation and Culture recommends:

THAT Springside Park be renamed to Brett J. Yerex Park in memory and recognition of Mr. Brett J. Yerex's commitment to the quality of life in Vaughan.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to rename Springside Park in memory of Mr. Brett J. Yerex.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

The City of Vaughan received correspondence from the Maple Landing Ratepayers Association dated May 12, 2004 requesting that Springside Park be renamed in memory of Mr. Brett J. Yerex (refer to Attachment 1).

The City of Vaughan's Policy (No. 04.3.08) for Renaming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties allows for name designation in honour of individuals or groups providing the any of the following criteria is demonstrated:

##### 3.3 Criteria/Guidelines for Names Honouring Individuals or Groups

"Names for consideration shall be those of distinguished persons, organizations, corporations, foundations or the families:

1. where there has been a significant contribution to the quality of life, well-being of the City of Vaughan and is consistent with Vaughan Vision; or,
2. to memorialize or otherwise recognize substantial gifts and significant donors, individuals designed by donors, or individuals who have made exemplary or meritorious contributions to the City of Vaughan; or,
3. where there is a strong historical or cultural connection to the City and has made a major contribution to the historical or cultural preservation of the City; or,
4. where there is a strong contribution toward the environmental preservation, conservation or enhancement of the City; or,
5. where there is a major contribution made to the acquisition, development or conveyance of land or building, in question and/or its subsequent development; or,
6. where there is a direct relationship or association that exists between the place or former place of residence of the person or group and the facility/park/street to be named.

The Department of Recreation and Culture supports the renaming of Springside Park in memory of Mr. Brett J. Yerex for the considerable contribution to improving the quality of life and well being to the residents of Vaughan. Over the years Mr. Yerex volunteered his time to numerous community initiatives and was most recently involved as a member of the newly formed Vaughan Accessibility Advisory Committee.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

### **Conclusion**

Staff recommend that Springside Park be renamed to Brett J. Yerex Park in memory and recognition of Mr. Brett J. Yerex's commitment to the quality of life in Vaughan.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Maple Landing Ratepayers Association Correspondence

### **Report Prepared By**

Diane LaPointe-Kay,  
Director of Recreation and Culture, Ext. 8117

Respectfully submitted,

Diane LaPointe-Kay  
Director of Recreation and Culture

# Maple Landing Ratepayers Association

27 Broomlands Dr.

Maple, Ontario, L6A 2K2

(905) 832-8987

web-site: <http://members.rogers.com/mlra>

(F91)  
Report  
for Sept.

## RECEIVED

MAR 12 2004

CITY OF VAUGHAN  
RECREATION AND CULTURE

Mayor and Members of Council  
The City of Vaughan  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive  
Vaughan, Ontario

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

**RE: Proposal to rename Springside Park "Brett J. Yerex Park"**

We thank you for honouring the memory of Brett Yerex, our friend and past president, at your council meeting of January 12th, 2004.

We respectfully ask Council to consider renaming Springside Park located at the southwest corner of Springside Road and Melville Avenue in Maple, "Brett J. Yerex Park" in his memory. We feel that this would be an appropriate acknowledgement of Brett and his contributions to the Maple community. This park has tennis courts and tennis was one of his favourite sports. He was involved in the planning of this park from the early stages.

The new name will better serve the community than the current impersonal name. Children and adults alike visiting or passing by the park will ask "who is Brett Yerex?". The answer to this question I'm sure will motivate many to get involved in serving their community and country.

As one of the founding members of the Maple Landing Ratepayers Association and a past-president of same, he represented his community effectively. He was instrumental in negotiations with developers in refining proposals to be more compatible with the existing community including negotiations over matters before the OMB.

Brett has many accomplishments in public service. He was part of an advocacy group that took their crusade to Ottawa. An amendment to the Employment Insurance Act to include compassionate leave benefits resulted as part of their mission. He served as Vice Chairperson of Vaughan's Accessibility Advisory Committee. One of Brett's proudest moments was being awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal (see <http://www.fkg.ca/mainpages/byerek.htm>) for his many contributions to his community.

At the end of this letter is a statement of consent for the renaming from Brett's next of kin, his wife Krys Yerex, who was very moved by our organization's gesture to rename the park.

I thank you for your consideration and hope that you will honour Brett's memory by honouring our request.

From [http://www.als.ca/als\\_news.asp?intNewsID=171](http://www.als.ca/als_news.asp?intNewsID=171)  
**ADVOCACY AWARD NAMED TO HONOUR BRETT J. YEREX**

The Executive Committee of the Board of the ALS Society of Canada is pleased to announce that the Society's advocacy award will be named in honour of Brett J. Yerex. Brett Yerex, who died in early January, was a driving force in the ALS Society advocacy program at both the national and provincial levels. He helped to shape the organization's messages, introduced the Society to people elected officials in his extensive network as well as participated in every advocacy campaign. As a volunteer he traveled to Ottawa for an ALS Society Hill Day and he was also involved in the provincial ALS Society advocacy project a Walk in the Park.

Brett also made significant contributions to fundraising for services and research through the Orangeville Walk to D'Feet ALS and in raising public awareness at every opportunity.

All of these activities were carried out with passion and humour. A hallmark of Brett's generous style was to give credit to others for achievements that he spearheaded.

The Executive's decision was announced to Brett's family and friends by Susan Graham Walker, Director of Communications, Advocacy & Research Administration, at a memorial service on January 17th.

The Brett J. Yerex Advocacy Award will acknowledge a significant advocacy initiative that has sought to improve the quality of life of people affected by ALS. The ALS Society of Canada recognition awards are given at the Society's Annual General Meeting in May.

Sincerely Yours,  
Levant Tinaz



President,  
Maple Landing Ratepayers Association  
daytime phone: (905) 672-2101x1300  
daytime cell: (416) 629-8947  
evening phone: (905) 832-8987

I, Krystina Yerex, wife of the late Brett J. Yerex, hereby give my consent to the renaming of Springside Park in the village of Maple, City of Vaughan, to "Brett J. Yerex Park".

  
(Signature)

DATED this 17th day of February, 2004