

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 4, 2005

NAMING PARK IN HONOUR OF VETERANS

Recommendation

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends that Council approve the naming of the parkette, located at the south west corner of Highway 7 and Islington Avenue "Veteran's Park" and that the official ceremony would take place on April 30, 2005 at the parkette with the Royal Canadian Legion.

Purpose

The purpose of this naming, "Veteran's Park", is to honour the memories of those veterans of World Wars 1 and 2, as well as the Korean conflict who gave their lives to ensure the freedoms of all Canadians. A great many residents of Vaughan made the ultimate sacrifice so that all of us could live in peace. Additionally, this park would honour those that were fortunate enough to come home and then played crucial roles in the growth and success of the City of Vaughan.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Federal government has declared 2005 as "The Year of the Veteran" and has called on all Canadians to honour those who have served their country. Many commemorative events will be held this year, including several in and around May 7, 2005, the 60th anniversary of VE Day, the Victory in Europe.

The MacKenzie (Ontario Number 414) Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion (the only Legion branch in the City of Vaughan) has asked Vaughan council to honour our veterans by naming the parkette. Letter attached.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The naming of this parkette "Veteran's Park" follows the Vaughan Vision 2007 mandate of community involvement. This day will be celebrated by the citizens of Vaughan and this parkette will be a constant reminder to all of the great contributions and sacrifices our service men and women made during those troubling years and even today as Canada continues working towards keeping peace in all troubled locations throughout the world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this parkette naming will allow the community to come together on April 29, 2005 to honour our veterans and also allow for future generations to remember that our City has played an important role in fighting for the freedoms of all Canadians.

Attachments

Attached is a copy of the letter from the Royal Canadian Legion, MacKenzie Branch, Ontario Number 414 requesting the naming of the parkette.

Report prepared by:

Bruce Kurta

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Di Biase
Mayor



The Royal Canadian Legion

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MACKENZIE (ONT. NO. 414) BRANCH

60 LEGION COURT ROAD • WOODBRIDGE, ONTARIO. L4L 2B4

March 22, 2005

Corporation of The City of Vaughn
2141 Major MacKenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON
L6A 1T1

Attn: His Worship Michael DiBiase and Council

Whereas the government of Canada has declared this to be the year of the veteran and whereas it is the duty of every Canadian to honour those who served their country, we at the McKenzie branch of the Royal Canadian Legion ask council to formally name the parkette on the south west corner of Highway #7 and Islington Avenue in the City of Vaughan "Veteran's Park".

Sincerely,

Robert Christie
President, Branch # 414

P.S. Or, "Veteran's Memorial Park" would also be a suitable name.