

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – NOVEMBER 7, 2005

NAMING PARK IN HONOUR OF VETERANS

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Parks Development recommends:

1. That Committee of the Whole approve naming the open space parcel located on the west side of the Humber River, east of Wallace Avenue, south of the Terraces Condominiums and north of Highway #7, "Veteran's Park" in honour of veterans; and,
2. That Committee of the Whole approve the re-naming the open space parcel located on the east side of the Humber River, south of Highway #7, and west of Legion Court Road "Legion Park".

Economic Impact

There will be a \$1,000 impact in the current budget for signage.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Committee of the Whole to name an open space parcel "Veteran's Park" in honour of veterans, and to re-name an existing open space parcel "Legion Park".

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Council meeting of April 25, 2005, Mr. John Thompson gave a deputation requesting the City of Vaughan to explore the feasibility of naming an open space in honour of veterans. This request was subsequent to the naming of an open space parcel "Veteran's Park" immediately north of the Royal Canadian Legion at 60 Legion Court Road.

As indicated in correspondence from Mr. Thompson and a group of concerned veterans, they felt that relocating the present "Veteran's Park" to a more prestigious location close to Memorial Hill would be appropriate (refer to Attachment 'A'). Two (2) open space parcels were identified by the group as preferable sites (refer to Attachment 'B'). These sites in order of preference are located at:

- 1.) The triangular open space parcel owned by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority on the west side of the Humber River immediately north of Highway #7 and south of the Terraces Condominiums; and,
- 2.) The open space parcel owned by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority on the south east corner of Islington Avenue and Willis Road.

Correspondence was received from the Royal Canadian Legion, Mackenzie Branch, (refer to Attachment 'C') indicating their support for the shifting of the "Veteran's Park" name to a more noticeable location within Vaughan and that the present park become known as "Legion Park".

The Woodbridge Core Ratepayer's Association and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority have been contacted regarding this request and both groups support the name changes (refer to Attachments D and E).

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

That the Committee of the Whole approve naming the open space parcel located on the west side of the Humber River, east of Wallace Avenue, south of the Terraces Condominiums and north of Highway #7, "Veteran's Park" in honour of veterans and, approve the re-naming the open space parcel located on the east side of the Humber River, south of Highway #7, and west of Legion Court Road "Legion Park".

Attachments

Attachment 'A' – Location Map

Attachment 'B' – Mr. John Thompson Correspondence dated June 6, 2005

Attachment 'C' – The Royal Canadian Legion Correspondence dated June 30, 2005

Attachment 'D' – Ratepayer Group Correspondence

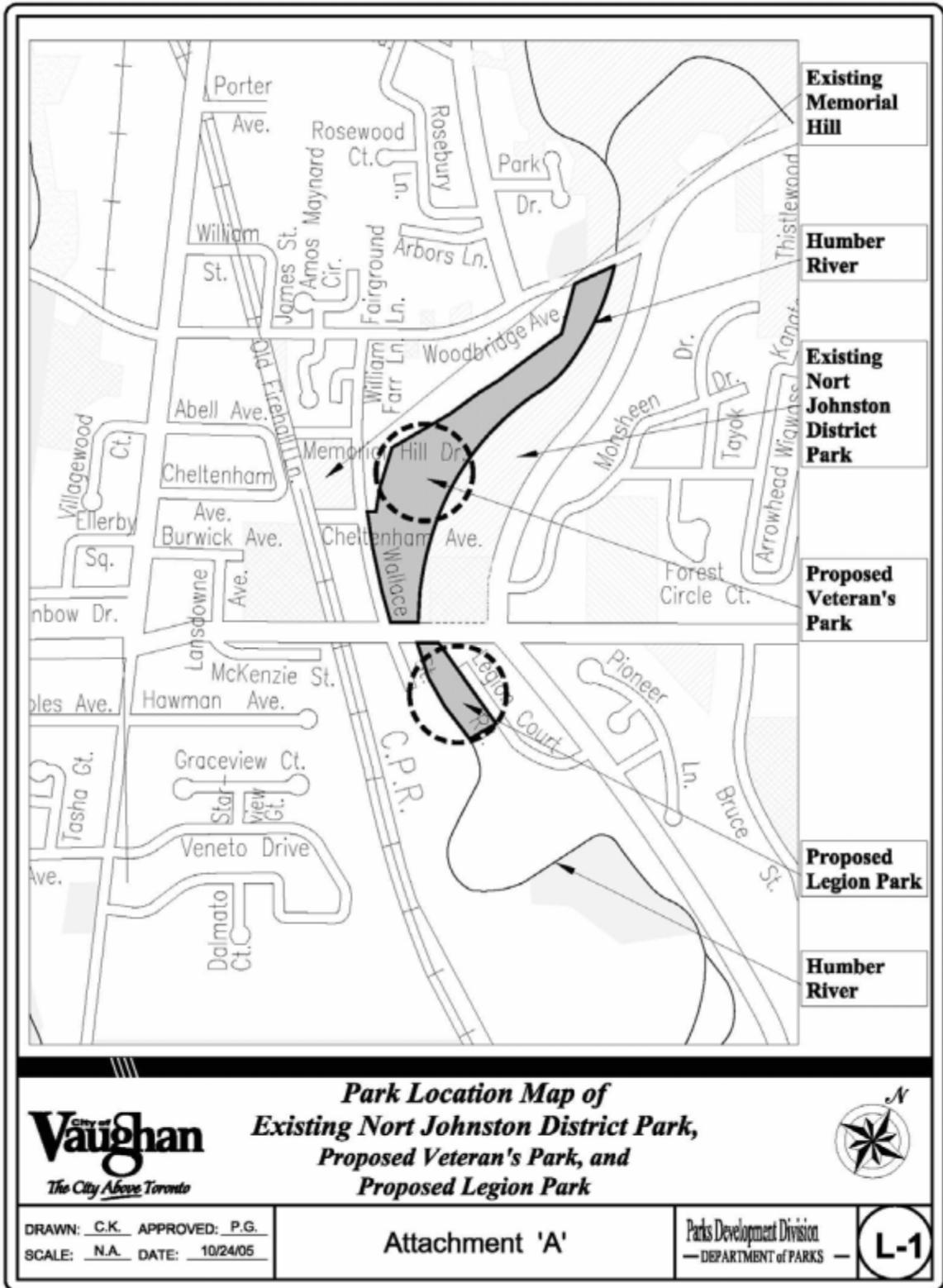
Attachment 'E' – Toronto Region Conservation Authority Correspondence

Report prepared by:

Paul Gardner, Director of Parks Development, Ext. 3209

Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Kallideen
Commissioner of Community Services



ATTACHMENT 'A'

Date - June 6th., 2005

To - Mayor and Members of Council
City of Vaughan

From - John H. Thompson

Subject - Relocation of Veterans' Park in the Community of Woodbridge

First of all I want to thank Council for allowing me to speak on the above subject at the April 25th., 2005 council meeting.

I am also pleased that you agreed to consider the relocation of the present Veterans' Park to a more prestigious site in keeping with its name and the City of Vaughan image. It was also my understanding that someone from Vaughan staff would contact me in this regard.

On May 26th., 2005 I met with Paul Gardner, Director of Park Development and Mr. Tom Nease, a Woodbridge veteran. Prior to this meeting and, in association with other interested parties, two possible sites were identified, either of which it was felt would be a suitable tribute to all veterans, past, present and future.

The first site, and the one we all agreed would be most suitable, is in the heart of the Woodbridge Community. It is a triangular parcel of land owned by the T.R.C.A. and maintained by the city. It is bounded on the north by the Terraces Condominiums which front on Woodbridge Ave., on the west by Wallace Street and on the east by the Humber River. It has two entrances, one on Woodbridge Ave. and one on Wallace Street and there is an excellent asphalt walking path connecting both. This site is used by many Woodbridge residents both winter and summer.

The second site is located on Islington Ave. on the south side of Willis Road. It is also T.R.C.A. land maintained by the city. In the past it was used extensively for picnics and recreation but, with the widening of Islington Ave., it is not as user-friendly as before.

We have also been in contact with the Woodbridge Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and they have no objection to the relocation of the present Veterans' Park to a more visible site. Their only request is that the present park be re-named Legion Park and signed accordingly.

As stated, both sites are suitable but our preference would be site one and we, as veterans, request Council to authorize this change.

Veterans' Park should reflect the attitude of the City of Vaughan. It should be a visible, lasting tribute to those who have served and to those who will serve in the future.

Respectfully submitted for consideration of the City of Vaughan Council by a group of concerned Veterans.

ATTACHMENT 'B'



The Royal Canadian Legion

MACKENZIE (ONT. NO. 414) BRANCH

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

June 30, 2005

The City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 1T1

Attn: Mayor Michael Di Biase
Members of Council

Your Honour Mr. Mayor
Honourable Members of Council

I would like to thank you for your kind letter of May 24, 2005 regarding our Memorial Service and Parkette Dedication. We appreciated all of your help in the successful completion of that day.

We have however hit a snag! Some of the Veterans of our branch are dissatisfied with the location of the parkette. They feel that it should have been placed in a more noticeable location within Vaughan. At our last General Meeting on June 28th a motion was made by Comrade John Thompson on behalf of the Veterans that the parkette be relocated. The motion went to the floor and was passed by a majority vote.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 414 Woodbridge, give our permission for the city to relocate the Veterans Park sign to a more suitable location, and replace the sign with one named Legion Park. This is of course entirely at your discretion, the veterans understand that if the City declines this request then Veterans Park must remain where it is.

I apologize for this confusion, but it is the result of acting too quickly and not investigating other possibilities before making the original request to the City.

Yours in comradeship

Jane Lowe
President
Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 414, Woodbridge



"They served till death! Why not we?"

ATTACHMENT 'C'

Paul Gardner
Director, Parks Development
City of Vaughan
2141 Major MacKenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON
L6A 1T1

Dear Mr Gardner:

Re: Naming of Open Space in Honour of Veterans

Further to your request please be advised that TRCA staff has no objection to naming either the Willis Avenue site or the Wallace Street site, Veterans' Park and or to renaming the former site, Legion Park.

Please advise us regarding Council's recommendation and we will report to our Board.

Sincerely

Ron Dewell, Manager
Conservation Lands and Property Services

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ATTACHMENT 'E'