

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - NOVEMBER 19, 2007

LOU LAISE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Recommendation

Councillor Tony Carella recommends the approval of a request that a small plaque commemorating the late Lou Laise be placed in the vicinity of the squash courts at Al Palladini Community Centre.

Economic Impact

Nil; family and friends have agreed to undertake any costs.

Communications Plan

Corporate Communications will issue a press release with the cooperation of the ward councillor and the Laise family.

Purpose

To commemorate an avid squash player who was a regular user of this facility.

Background - Analysis and Options

Lou Laise, a long-time resident of the City of Vaughan and a regular user of the squash courts at Al Palladini Community Centre, died in October of 2006, following a lengthy illness. His family expressed a wish that a small plaque be placed in the vicinity of the courts, to commemorate his passion for the sport and of the place where he indulged that passion. This request has been endorsed by those with whom he played (see Attachment 1), and by staff of the Palladini Centre (see Attachment 2). The local councillor and the Director of Buildings and Facilities have met with members of the family on site and have identified a satisfactory location for the proposed plaque.

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.

Regional Implications

Nil

Conclusion

It is appropriate that the City of Vaughan support this request for a small tribute to a much-liked and long-time user of the squash courts at Al Palladini Community Centre.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Letter in support of request

Attachment 2: Letter of July 3, 2007, in support of request

Report prepared by:

Councillor Tony Carella

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Carella
Councillor – Ward 2

November 12, 2007

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

Dear Council Members:

Re: Plaque in honour of the late Mr. Lou Laise

It is with great pleasure that we request a plaque in honour of the late Mr. Lou Laise at the Al Palladini Community Centre. Mr. Laise was a long-time member of the Al Palladini Community Centre, where he worked-out regularly, took part in the yearly squash tournaments and accompanied his children to hockey, skating and swimming lessons in years past.

Mr. Laise was a good friend to both members and staff alike and his kind and friendly demeanour and willingness to help others epitomized the sense of community the Al Palladini Community Centre is meant to inspire.

Mr. Laise was diagnosed with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in May, 2006 and passed away on October 18, 2006. Mr. Laise was inspirational in his fight against ALS. Despite the extremely debilitating effects of the disease, Mr. Laise remained positive. Mr. Laise kept in touch with the friends he made at the Al Palladini Community Centre. Although he was unable to take part in the 2006 squash tournament, Mr. Laise came to cheer on his

friends.

He is dearly missed and fondly remembered.

John Corrado
Wolofa

GINO LACORTE Yours very truly,

Stacy Nats

Members and Staff of the Al Palladini Community Centre

Adrian Zilli *Antonio Meriani* *MARCELLO CASTRANTA*
MAZ NOTARIANNI *Mario Cavallera* *Christina*
Steven Spinelli *Nitzette* *Gene Soria*
Mich [Signature] *GARRY CHORASIS*
K. Cavaliere *Pino Scavone* *Lucretia Gomez*
FRANK RIZZO *Janisheat*

Marc Di Stefano

Pam Tassone

Almares Grand

ERIO DEIANA

[Signature]

To: Councillor Tony Carella, Ward 2

From: Janis Lees, Recreation Supervisor

Date: July 3, 2007

Re: Plaque in memorium of Louie Laise

I am writing on behalf of Clare Laise, widow of long time Al Palladini fitness member Louie Laise. Lou was an avid squash player and devoted fitness member at the Al Palladini Community Centre for many years. He was well respected and admired for his dedication to his health and well being.

Tragically, Lou was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease in 2006 and quickly succumbed to this disease and passed away in January 2007. It came as a shock to all of us. He is greatly missed.

Clare Laise has requested a plaque be placed in the squash court area at Al Palladini Fitness Centre in Lou's memory. In speaking with Clare, she was advised to get approval from myself and forward this information to your office.

I fully support having this plaque mounted in the fitness centre and feel that Lou would have been honored to know that so many members appreciated his kindness and sportsmanship and that members who knew him would also appreciate this dedication.

Please let me know if you require any additional information and kindly advise Clare Laise when this can be arranged.

Sincerely,



Janis Lees, Recreation Services Supervisor
Al Palladini Community Centre
(905) 832-8564 x7204
janis.lees@vaughan.ca

cc: Paul Compton – Recreation Manager West
Liana Kearney – Fitness Co-ordinator APCC