

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 8, 2009**

### **NAMING OF FIRE STATION # 7-2 – WARD 1**

#### **Recommendation**

The Fire Chief, in consultation with the City Manager and as per Item 1, Report No. 33 of the Committee of the Whole (Closed Session) which was adopted by the Council of the City of Vaughan on June 15, 2009, recommend:

1. That Fire Station # 7-2 (Keele and Rutherford) be formally named in memory of Firefighter Donald 'Chic' Milne, the first Vaughan Firefighter to lose his life in the performance of his duties in 1974.
2. That a special presentation to Council and the Milne family be held in Council Chambers on September 29, 2009.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

N/A

#### **Economic Impact**

A cost of approximately \$1500.00 for the bronze memorial plaque was incurred by the Fire Department.

#### **Communications Plan**

Corporate Communications will issue a media release naming Fire Station # 7-2 in memory of Donald 'Chic' Milne.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to formally name Fire Station # 7-2 in memory of Firefighter Donald 'Chic' Milne, the first Vaughan Firefighter to lose his life in the performance of his duties in 1974.

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

Council, at its meeting on June 15, 2009, directed staff to report back in September 2009 recommending either an existing or proposed fire station be named in honour of Donald 'Chic' Milne. Staff has consulted with VFRS Senior Command, Vaughan Professional Firefighters Association and the Milne family, and as a result, this recommendation is being brought forward for consideration.

The following excerpt taken from the published book '*Their Last Alarm*' by Robert Kirkpatrick, describes the series of events as they unfolded that evening. "Late on the evening of Saturday, February 2, 1974, the Vaughan Fire Department responded to a house fire on Crestwood Road in the Bathurst and Steeles area of Vaughan. Trucks from the main station at Keele Street and Rutherford Road in the village of Maple responded, including Pumper 2 driven by firefighter Donald Milne. While laying out hose lines for his crew, firefighter Milne complained of chest pains and was rushed by police to York Central Hospital where he died early the next morning of heart failure.

Donald Leslie "Chic" Milne was forty-one years old and lived in Maple. He was originally from Aurora, where his father Charles had been on the volunteer department from 1933 to 1953. Donald joined the Vaughan Fire Department in July 1963 as a volunteer firefighter and became full time on July 1, 1966."

In a full uniform service, Donald 'Chic' Milne was carried to his final resting place in the Maple Cemetery aboard a Vaughan pumper in a driving snowstorm.

Although it has been over thirty-five years since Chic died, it remains appropriate to name a fire station in his memory. In making the ultimate sacrifice for his community, he deserves to be remembered.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

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

### **Regional Implications**

There are no Regional Implications.

### **Conclusion**

It remains appropriate that Vaughan Fire Station # 7-2 be named in memory of Firefighter Donald 'Chic' Milne, the first Vaughan Firefighter to lose his life in the performance of his duties. Dedicating Fire Station # 7-2 in memory of Donald 'Chic' Milne conforms to the City's Policy for Naming City Parks, Open Spaces, Community Facilities and Other Municipal Buildings and Properties.

### **Attachments**

None

### **Report prepared by:**

G.R. Senay, Fire Chief

Respectfully submitted,

G.R. Senay  
Fire Chief