



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Corporate Services & Clerk

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Laura Moy, Director Corporate Services & Clerk

Date to Council: November 27, 2018

Report Number: CS-2018-39

Subject: Renaming of Green Acres Optimist Park

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That Green Acres Optimist Park **be renamed** as “Optimist Park.”

Background

At the August 14, 2018, Regular Meeting of Council, the Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach provided an update on the numerous community events they organize each year, fundraising activities and service projects.

At the meeting, the Club’s representatives asked the Town to consider renaming the Green Acres Optimist Park (Park) to “Optimist Park.”

Comments

The Optimist Club of St. Clair (Club) was formed in April 1978 and over the years the members have given generously of themselves in the promotion of healthy activities and have helped to deliver services to support the community.

The first project undertaken by the Club was a major fireworks display at Green Acres Park on Victoria Day in 1978. The fireworks display became an annual tradition at the Park.

The Club has also been actively involved in numerous community service projects. Barbecues and picnic shelters were made possible at the Park in large part from the Club’s support. It is also responsible for many pathways, benches and litter containers at the Park and throughout

the community. The St. Clair Beach Community Centre was also made possible through the generous efforts of the Club's members and financial contribution

Green Acres Parks was renamed "Green Acres Optimist Park" by the Council of the Village of St. Clair Beach on July 27, 1998, in recognition of the Club's significant contributions to the Park and community support.



In researching the request, numerous other parks were found named as Optimist Park, but with a reference to their location or historical background. Some examples locally are Optimist Park (LaSalle), Optimist Park / Belle River, Optimist Memorial Park and Optimist Memorial Dog Park (in Windsor), and Brindle Optimist Park (in Essex). Other Optimist Parks were also found in the City of Niagara, North Bay and many others throughout the Province.

The request of the Club for renaming the park to "Optimist Park" is supported. It is recommended however that "St. Clair" be included when referencing the Park on the Town's website and other materials to differentiate it from the many other Optimist Parks throughout the Province. St. Clair Beach is consistent with the name of the Optimist Club of St. Clair Beach and recognizes the legacy of the former Village of St. Clair Beach where the Park is located.

The background behind the name of “Green Acres” could not be found definitively. When consulting with the Tecumseh Area Historical Society (TAHS), they believed the area of the Park was once referred to as “Green Acres” before being transformed into a park.

Consultations

Planning & Building Services
TAHS

Financial Implications

The cost of replacing the Park sign is included in the 2019 Small Capital Budget and estimated at \$2,500.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2017-18 Strategic Priorities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that the Town of Tecumseh’s current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of the Town of Tecumseh’s plans and priorities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town’s “continuous improvement” approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town’s leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

Communications

Not applicable

Website Social Media News Release Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Laura Moy, Dipl. M.M., CMMIII HR Professional
Director Corporate Services & Clerk

Recommended by:

Tony Haddad, MSA, CMO, CPFA
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None