
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CDP-05-2019 Naming of Corporate Assets – Caledonia River Walk For Consideration by Council in Committee on April 16, 2019



OBJECTIVE:

To obtain Council approval to name the pathway along the north side of the Grand River in Caledonia the “Ron Clark Memorial River Walk” and to approve—through the Community Partnership Program—the installation of a memorial plaque in Caledonia Kinsmen Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-05-2019 Naming of Corporate Assets – Caledonia River Walk be received;
2. AND THAT the request to name the pathway along the north side of the Grand River, in Caledonia, the “Ron Clark Memorial River Walk”, be approved;
3. AND THAT the cost of the Haldimand County Parks signage and its installation, at an estimated cost of \$3,000, will be the responsibility of the County and be funded by the Capital Replacement Reserve General;
4. AND THAT the request to undertake the installation of a memorial plaque in Caledonia Kinsmen Park, in proximity to the Caledonia Lions Pool and assessed through the Community Partnership Program (Policy 2011-01), be approved
5. AND THAT project approval is conditional upon compliance with Policy 2011-01 and County standards, permits and processes.

Prepared by: Katrina Schmitz, Community Partnership Liaison

Reviewed by: Sheila Wilson, CPRP, Manager, Community Development & Partnerships

Respectfully submitted: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, General Manager of Community & Development Services

Approved: Donald G. Boyle, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In February 2019, Haldimand County received an application to name the pathway along the north side of the Grand River in Caledonia Kinsmen Park the “Ron Clark Memorial River Walk” in memory of local businessman, philanthropist and community builder, Ron Clark, who had passed away earlier this year.

The request, which is in keeping with Haldimand County’s Naming of Corporate Assets Policy (No. 2010-02) was submitted by the Caledonia Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Special Projects Group and was supported by Mr. Clark’s family.

As well as the request to name the pathway in memory of Mr. Clark and install related signage, the proposal also included a request to install a memorial plaque in proximity of the Caledonia Lions Pool in Kinsmen Park. This pool is one of several assets replaced in 2013 in the Park thanks to a \$5 million donation by Mr. Clark and his wife, Nancy.

Staff have completed a review of the requests through the Community Partnership Program’s Staff Review Team—including public notification of the proposal—and support the naming of the riverfront pathway in honour of Mr. Clark, as well as the installation of a plaque, in recognition of his exceptional generosity and contributions to the community.

BACKGROUND:

The Naming of Corporate Assets Policy (Haldimand County Policy 2010-02, Attachment 1) sets out a consistent process and parameters—associated to the naming of municipal buildings or properties—to recognize individuals for their contributions to the community. Through the policy, nominations may be made to honour outstanding achievement, distinctive service, historical or civic significance or significant community contribution of an individual or group. This includes leaders in the areas of the recreation, sports, arts, music, culture, heritage or literature. The request to name the riverfront pathway in honour of Ron Clark was assessed through this process.

The request to install a bronze memorial plaque in proximity to Caledonia Lions Pool in Caledonia Kinsmen Park was assessed through the County’s Community Partnership Program.

ANALYSIS:

Riverfront Pathway Naming:

As part of the Naming of Corporate Assets process, staff have reviewed and scored the application (Attachment 2) according to the policy criteria. The proposed naming of the facility complies with the criteria set out in the policy. Using a weighted matrix associated with the criteria, supporting documentation and relevant background, staff scored the proposal at 56 of a possible 65 points. The proposal aligns with the intent and criteria of the policy as follows:

Item	Weight	Maximum Possible Points	Score
1. Criteria (see table, below)	50%	15	6
2. Attached documentation (letters of support)	30%	30	30
3. Relevant background (length of service, multiple groups)	20%	20	20
TOTAL	100%	65	56

CRITERIA FOR HONOURING INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS or GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	SCORE
Pioneers, early settlers, industrialists or other historic figures significant to the County	-
Veterans	-
Fallen police officer or firefighter	-
Exemplary public, political or community service	X
Athlete or leader in sport and recreation	-
Leader in the arts, music, culture, heritage or literature	-
Someone who has brought positive national or international recognition to the County	X

CRITERIA FOR HONOURING INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS or GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	SCORE
Demonstrated courage by having risked or given their life to save or protect others	-
Demonstrated measurable excellence and exceptional service to the citizens of Haldimand County, the Province of Ontario or Canada	X
The named individual or group will have made a significant contribution to the local community and will have represented Haldimand County in a meritorious manner so as to achieve wide recognition for their endeavours	X
Preference will be given to naming that is directly related to the type of service being offered at the named facility (i.e. sports for sports facilities)	-
The individual or group have no other municipally-owned asset naming designations	X
The naming will not cause confusion or duplication of names within the municipality or compromise emergency response situations	X
Where it relates to historical or geographic context, the individual, group or resource does not have any previous named designations	-
Nominations to recognize geographic or historical context commemorate a historical event or cultural significance	-

Profile and Accomplishments of Ron Clark:

Ron Clark was born and raised in Caledonia and, as the third generation to join his family’s agricultural business in 1966, grew The Clark Companies to its prominence before handing over the day-to-day leadership to his son, Jason, in 1999. He was a dedicated family man who, along with his wife Nancy, raised his family of a son and two daughters before retiring and enjoying his time with his ten grandchildren.

An incredibly generous, visionary and community-minded individual, Mr. Clark’s humility was such that many in the community were not fully aware of his contributions, both in Caledonia and Haldimand County, but also outside the region. Most recently, he was honoured with the Caledonia Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Lifetime Achievement Award for his many contributions to projects throughout Caledonia (most recently the Caledonia Agricultural Society for its major redevelopment). A sampling of just some of his many volunteer activities and contributions are detailed in Attachment 2.

Mr. Clark was a one-time Board Member of the Grand River Conservation Authority and supported local conservation projects throughout Haldimand personally and through his family’s Clark Foundation. He also initiated the creation of the Special Project Group, a team of volunteers—mainly retired friends of Mr. Clark’s—who undertook restoration and rehabilitation projects for the past twenty-plus years throughout Caledonia, and as far away as Haiti. Among the group’s major activities was the restoration of the Old Train Station (which now houses the town’s Chamber of Commerce) and Caboose as well as beautification projects throughout town and along the River. In collaboration with his family, Mr. Clark provided significant financial and in-kind support for the construction of the Haldimand County Caledonia Centre (HCCC) twin-pad Arena/Library, which opened in 2003. In 2013, Clark and his wife made a \$5 million legacy donation that resulted in the makeover of Caledonia Kinsmen Park, including construction of the new Caledonia Lions Pool and Splash Pad as well as the paved, accessible pathway that is the subject of the naming request. (Attachment 3) Thanks to this significant revitalization, Kinsmen Park is now a major regional recreational asset for the County’s residents and visitors. The donation also led to the construction of a popular, permanent skate park, when a temporary facility in

Kinsmen Park was moved to the HCCC during the revitalization project, placing it in closer proximity to local schools and other youth-oriented recreational amenities.

Mr. Clark and his wife also provided substantial ongoing funding to the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies through their Clark Bursary Fund and supported Western University's Ivey School of Business, Hamilton Health Sciences' Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre and local hospitals.

Among the awards received by Clark and his wife were: 2017 Outstanding Philanthropists Award from the Association of Fund-Raising Professionals; the Grand River Conservation Authority Honour Roll Award in 2013 for contributions to Caledonia Kinsmen Park's revitalization as well as at Taquanyah Conservation Area and the contribution of 75 kilometres of abandoned railway lines to be converted into trails; and, the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award.

The Haldimand County Naming of Corporate Assets Policy requires public notification for proposals naming corporate assets; as such, staff published the proposed naming of the Kinsmen Park Pathway on the County website's and in local media. No concerns were submitted.

Memorial Plaque Installation:

Along with the naming of the riverfront pathway, the Special Projects Group requested the installation of a 3' x 2' bronze plaque in memory of Mr. Clark in proximity to the rebuilt Caledonia Lions Pool. The proposed inscription on the plaque to read:

Ronald Murray Clark			
June 12, 1941 – January 14, 2019			
Visionary	Entrepreneur	Philanthropist	Mentor
A true farmer, he planted the seeds to inspire growth. Through contributions to community projects, health and welfare, continued education and humanitarian aid, he pursued his lifelong ambition to improve his community and better the world. Generous by nature, humble by virtue, he left his beloved Caledonia with his vision realized and its citizenry grateful. His many sponsored community landmarks and recreational facilities remain to be enjoyed for generations to come. A devoted family man, an esteemed businessman, a generous benefactor, an inspiration to all. A life well lived.			

Haldimand County's Community Partnership Program (CPP) Staff Review Team reviewed this request—which will be fully funded by the Special Projects Group—and support the proposal. Staff will continue to work with the group to determine the most suitable location, style and installation method for the plaque.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

In keeping with an amendment to the *Naming of Corporate Assets and Ceremonial Road Name Policy*, passed by Council in 2016, the County is responsible for the costs and installation of approved signs, with funding from the Capital Replacement Reserve General. In this particular case, staff recommended that two Haldimand County Parks signs should be installed along the one km pathway; one each at the west (Caithness Street) and east (Argyle Street) ends of the Park. These signs will be funded through the Capital Replacement Reserve General.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

This request was reviewed by the Community Partnership Program's Staff Review Team, including specific feedback from: Accessibility Committee staff; Community Development & Partnerships; Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations; and Finance.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Naming of Corporate Assets Policy No. 2010-02.
2. Naming of Corporate Assets Application Form – Ron Clark Memorial River Walk.
3. Location Map – Caledonia River Walk.