
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report CDP-08-2021 Naming of Corporate Assets – Hagersville Park and Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum Resource Room, Storage Shed



For Consideration by Council in Committee on September 14, 2021

OBJECTIVE:

To obtain Council approval to rename Hagersville Park “Sgt. Andrew Harnett Memorial Park” and - at Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum – the renaming of two assets: the resource area “The Cheryl MacDonald Memorial Resource Room” and the exterior storage building “The Stanley B. Sheppard Memorial Shed”.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report CDP-08-2021 Naming of Corporate Assets – Hagersville Park and Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum Resource Room, Storage Shed be received;
2. AND THAT the request to rename Hagersville Park “Sgt. Andrew Harnett Memorial Park” and - at Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum - name the resource area “The Cheryl MacDonald Memorial Resource Room” and the exterior storage building “The Stanley B. Sheppard Shed”, be approved;
3. AND THAT the cost of artwork changes to the Haldimand County Parks sign in Hagersville Park be allocated to the Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations Division’s 2021 Operating Budget, while the signs for the two requests at Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum be funded through community donations;
4. AND THAT design and installation of all signage will be in keeping with Haldimand County’s associated standards and processes.

Prepared by: Katrina Schmitz, Manager, Community Development and Partnerships

Respectfully submitted: Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In July 2021, Haldimand County received an application to rename centrally-located Hagersville Park—site of the Hagersville Lions Pool and Splash Pad, the skate park, tennis and multi-use courts, playground, pavilion, pathways and arboretum—the “Sgt. Andrew Harnett Memorial Park” in honour of the former Hagersville resident who died in the line of duty. The request, which is in keeping with Haldimand County’s Naming of Corporate Assets Policy 2010-02 (Attachment 1), was submitted by the Hagersville Chamber of Commerce, the Hagersville Legion and the Hagersville Lions Club, and is supported by Sgt. Harnett’s family.

The County also received applications to name assets at Haldimand County’s Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum (WMMSM) in memory of two long-time supporters of the facility. The first

request was to recognize local author and historian Cheryl MacDonald by naming the WMMSM resource library “The Cheryl MacDonald Memorial Resource Room”; the second was to recognize long-time community and heritage builder Stanley Sheppard by naming the exterior storage building “The Stanley B. Sheppard Shed”. Both requests were submitted by Haldimand Museums and are in keeping with the County’s naming policy, and both are supported by the respective families.

Staff completed a review of the requests through the Community Partnership Program’s review team process and support all three proposals. Further, in accordance with the Naming of Corporate Assets Policy, notification of the requests was published in the local newspapers and on the County’s website over a two-week period. All feedback received was of a positive nature and no concerns were raised.

BACKGROUND:

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

ANALYSIS:

Staff in the Community Development & Partnerships Division (CDP)—which administers the Naming of Corporate Assets Policy (2010-02) and process—received three applications for renaming or naming of municipal assets:

1. **Renaming:** Hagersville Park– Sgt. Andrew Harnett Memorial Park;
2. **Naming:** Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum Resource Room – The Cheryl MacDonald Memorial Resource Room; and
3. **Naming:** Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum Storage Building – The Stanley B. Sheppard Memorial Shed.

The applications were assessed by members of CDP’s Staff Review Team and were found to meet the criteria of the policy; in all three cases staff supported the requests. In accordance with the policy, the proposed names were also published for a two-week period in the County’s newspaper ad and on its website to garner public feedback. Staff did receive much public support for the proposals, and no concerns were raised.

Hagersville Park Renaming:

Sgt. Andrew Harnett was born and raised in Hagersville by a family which instilled in him—by example—the importance of community involvement and wanting to make a difference. As the youngest of three brothers, his passion to serve started young, as he became an active volunteer member of Crime Stoppers for five years while still a student at Hagersville Secondary School. Sgt. Harnett knew he wanted to become a police officer from an early age, connecting with local police officers as a young man, trying to learn more about policing. After a period of time as a military police officer, he joined the Calgary Police Service. On New Year’s Eve 2020, 37-year-old Sgt. Harnett was struck and killed after pulling over a vehicle.

Along with the renaming of the Park, requests have been received from Crime Stoppers and the Hagersville Lions Club (of which his father was a long-time member) for two memorial benches in Sgt. Harnett's honour, as well as a memorial tree (also from the Lions Club).

The proposal to rename Hagersville Park "**Sgt. Andrew Harnett Memorial Park**" complies with the criteria set out in the Naming of Corporate Assets policy. Using a weighted matrix associated with the criteria, supporting documentation and relevant background, staff scored the proposal at 58 of a possible 65 points. The proposal aligns with the intent of the criteria of the policy as follows:

Item	Weight	Maximum Possible Points	Score
1. Criteria (see table, below)	50%	15	8
2. Attached documentation (letters of support)	30%	30	30
3. Relevant background (length of service, multiple groups)	20%	20	20
TOTAL	100%	65	58

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	√
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	√
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	√
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	√
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	√
The naming will not cause confusion or duplication of names within the municipality or compromise emergency response situations	√
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 are of cultural significance	

WMMSM Resource Library Naming:

Local author and historian Cheryl MacDonald was a passionate supporter of heritage and culture in Haldimand County and beyond, inspiring her community to embrace its diverse and rich history. MacDonald authored, co-authored and edited more than forty books on historical subjects of local and national interest as well as writing almost 3,000 articles for Canadian and U.S. publications including the Hamilton Spectator, Toronto Star, Canadian Living, Macleans, The Old Farmer's Almanac and Harrowsmith. Her long-running weekly columns for the Simcoe Times Reformer and Haldimand Press garnered a following both locally and nationally. MacDonald's passion included giving regular lectures and presentations as well as participating in historical re-enactments. Her generosity with other local cultural organizations through presentations and the sharing of resources helped build out Haldimand County's rich heritage and culture sector. In recognition of her body of work, MacDonald was the recipient of the 2012 Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal.

The request to name the research and library area of WMMSM **"The Cheryl MacDonald Memorial Research Room"** is supported by Staff, who scored the proposal at 58 of a possible 65 points.

Item	Weight	Maximum Possible Points	Score
4. Criteria (see table, below)	50%	15	8
5. Attached documentation (letters of support)	30%	30	30
6. Relevant background (length of service, multiple groups)	20%	20	20
TOTAL	100%	65	58

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	√
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	√
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	√
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	√
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	√
The naming will not cause confusion or duplication of names within the municipality or compromise emergency response situations	√

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 are of cultural significance	

WMMSM Exterior Storage Building Naming:

Community leader Stanley Sheppard had a passion for local government and the services it provides to residents. As a one-time City of Nanticoke Councillor, he believed “we have a great responsibility to manage the affairs of our municipality to the best of our ability in our generation, so we can be proud to pass it on to the next generation”. That commitment to community excellence extended to his support of local museums, fighting hard to ensure Council always knew the importance of these tangible assets as a means to teach local history to future generations. His dedication to preserving local history extended to volunteering for decades at WMMSM (where he, his father and two of his children attended school), including chairing a building committee to construct an addition to the one-room schoolhouse and ongoing fund-raising for its many activities and initiatives. Sheppard also served on many other agricultural and community Boards and Committees including the Haldimand Federation of Agriculture, Haldimand Milk Marketing Committee, Haldimand Board of Education, Haldimand County Children’s Aid Society, the North Erie Shore Historical Society, Heritage Day and the Haldimand Museums Advisory Board.

The request to name the outdoor storage building at WMMSM “**The Stanley B. Sheppard Memorial Shed**” is supported by staff, who scored the proposal at 57 of a possible 65 points.

Item	Weight	Maximum Possible Points	Score
7. Criteria (see table, below)	50%	15	7
8. Attached documentation (letters of support)	30%	30	30
9. Relevant background (length of service, multiple groups)	20%	20	20
TOTAL	100%	65	57

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	√
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	
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	√

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	√
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	√
The naming will not cause confusion or duplication of names within the municipality or compromise emergency response situations	√
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 are of cultural significance	

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

In keeping with an amendment to the Naming of Corporate Assets and Ceremonial Road Naming policies, 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.

However, in the case of the three current requests, staff recommend that the artwork on the Hagersville Park sign be replaced through the Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations 2021 Operating Budget (through general maintenance and repairs), while the Friends of Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum (WMMSM) and the family of Cheryl MacDonald have indicated they would like to pay for the signage for the two assets at WMMSM.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

These requests were reviewed by staff from the Community Development & Partnerships Division and Facilities, Parks, Cemeteries & Forestry Operations.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Naming of Corporate Assets Policy No. 2010-02.