
TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: D. MCALPINE, CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES

**NOTED: P. ELLIOTT-SPENCER, MBA, CPA, CMA, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY
AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: RECOGNITION OF H. JOHN MURPHY – MUNICIPAL NAMING

DATE: JANUARY 16, 2017

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise members of City Council with respect to a Municipal Naming Request related to H. John Murphy.

On January 11, 2016, City Council adopted the Municipal Naming Policy and established the composition of a Municipal Naming Working Group to review suggestions and provide recommendations related to the names of municipal assets (where such naming was not related to sponsorships). In late November of 2016, a submission was received to name a City facility/building or park in recognition of the late Mr. H. John Murphy.

The following are highlights from material received related to the naming of the Sunnidale Water Reservoir & Pumping Station in honour of H. John Murphy:

- H. John Murphy served Barrie at the Barrie Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a period of almost 40 years and for the latter half of that period he was the General Manager of the PUC and was responsible for the creation of Barrie's modern electricity and water systems;
- He joined to the Barrie PUC in 1940, but volunteered for war service in 1942 and was assigned to the Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME) regiment, the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade, was the first engineer support unit to follow the fighting troops into France on D-Day;
- Mr. Murphy was responsible for several innovations in weapons systems and combat vehicles used by the Allied armies, an example was a redesign of the wiring of the amphibious Sherman M4 medium tank – known as the “Murphy system”;
- Upon demobilization in 1946, he returned to the PUC and during his years with the PUC he oversaw and directed the expansion of the City’s water and electrical systems as Barrie grew rapidly;
- The efficiency of the PUC during his tenure, notably in terms of low rates and the infrequency of power outages, was a major factor in the City’s ability to attract industry;
- In 1971 he was given an award by the Association of Municipal Electrical Utilities of Ontario in recognition of his service as President “...conducting the business of the Association both in Canada and Internationally...to the credit of Hydro in Ontario”; and
- Mr. Murphy was a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, member of the Municipal Staff, Civil Defence, a member of the Advisory Board of Barrie District Central Collegiate, Chairman of the Advisory Vocational Committee of the Simcoe County Board of Education, President of the Ontario Municipal Electric Association, and a Director and Secretary-Treasurer of the Georgian Bay Region of the Association of Municipal Electrical Utilities.

The Municipal Naming Working Group met on December 19, 2016 and recommended that public consultation be undertaken concerning the naming of the Sunnidale Water Reservoir & Pumping Station, in recognition of H. John Murphy, subject to the Murphy family's concurrence with the proposal.

In accordance with the Municipal Naming Policy, the Municipal Naming Working Group will be undertaking public consultation starting on February 1, 2017, regarding the potential naming of the asset the H. John Murphy Sunnidale Water Reservoir & Pumping Station. The public will have 30 days to provide comments regarding the proposed naming. A staff report will be presented in 2017 regarding the results of the public consultation.