



LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: C. SWAN, SUPERVISOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

NOTED: W. COOKE, ACTING CITY CLERK/DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE AND COURT SERVICES

D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: PARK RENAMING REQUEST – MUNICIPAL NAMING WORKING GROUP

DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2017

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with information regarding a Municipal Naming Application. An application was submitted on behalf of the Barrie Historical Association requesting the renaming of Kempenfelt Park to Ardraven Park.

The Municipal Naming Policy was established in 2016 to review applications and provide recommendations related to the naming of municipal assets where such naming was not related to sponsorships.

In late October of 2017, a submission was received from the Association to rename Kempenfelt Park which the applicant identified as being located on a portion of Sir James Robert Gowan estate. Both the mansion and estate were named Ardraven.

The applicant stated that they do not wish to "...trample on or ignore anything or anyone of historical significance." but "There is nothing wrong with the present appellation, other than it is too generic and says nothing about the unique history of the property. Lacking any other reason, it was named Kempenfelt Park simply because it overlooks its namesake bay...", and "...given the significance of Sir James Gowan, and the association of Ardraven with the parkland in question, a more suitable and meaningful name for this public amenity would be Ardraven Park."

The submission provided additional details related to the history of Sir James Robert Gowan, his family and the mansion and estate named Ardraven. The mansion and estate were named after ancestral lands in Ireland and located "...between Duckworth and St. Vincent Park, bordered by Blake Street and overlooking the bay.". The family eventually donated a portion of the estate "...on the water side of Kempenfelt Drive to the town of Barrie for use as a public park."

The application details noted that the Barrie Historical Association and the Simcoe County Historical Association had applied to the Ontario Heritage Trust to erect a plaque in recognition of the Gowan family and they have received confirmation that in the summer of 2018 one will be placed at this location.

The Municipal Naming Working Group (MNWG) met on November 15, 2017 to review the application. As stipulated in the policy, Councillor Ainsworth, the Ward Councillor for the area in which the asset is located was a member of the MNWG in addition to staff from a number of departments.



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One of the purposes of the policy was to allow for commemorative name assets (on an exceptional basis), to honour the significant contributions of an individual or family. The re-naming of a municipal park after a former mansion and estate name, which in turn is named after ancestral lands in Ireland, was deemed not to be in accordance with the Municipal Naming Policy criteria.

The Working Group also noted that there is a long standing local area identification with the Kempenfelt Park name for the residents of Barrie and the rationale associated with renaming of the park to Ardraven Park would be unlikely to be understandable to the majority of Barrie residents.

The Working Group clarified that the significant contributions Sir Gowan and his family made to the City of Barrie and surrounding community had been recognized by the naming of Gowan Street. It was noted that the Ontario Heritage Trust plaque would provide an opportunity to mention the Ardraven mansion and estate.

The Working Group determined that the application would not proceed to public consultation as the Municipal Naming criteria were not deemed to be met. A letter has been sent to the Association advising of the status of the application.