

Proposed renaming of Hanover Park

Date:	June 2, 2009
To:	North York Community Council
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 9 - York Centre
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

This report responds to the request of North York Community Council (NY26.45) at its May 14th, 2009 meeting, regarding the renaming of Hanover Park, located at 3 Hanover Road, to “Robert (Bob) Leek Memorial Park.”

The Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff is recommending that Hanover Park be officially renamed “Robert (Bob) Leek Park” in honour of the late 25-year veteran fire fighter and his significant contributions to Toronto Fire Services and the citizens of Toronto as a District Chief with the department.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in ensuring that all criteria in the Naming and Renaming for Parks and Recreation Facilities and Parks Policy have been met.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that North York Community Council rename Hanover Park, located at Hanover Road and Powell Road, in honour of the late Robert (Bob) Leek, of Toronto Fire Services.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of May 14th, 2009, North York Community Council, in considering a communication from Councillor Maria Augimeri requesting that the Hanover Park be renamed in honour of the late District Fire Chief, Robert (Bob) Leek, referred this matter to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report back for its meeting of June 23, 2009.

(Decision Document – NY26.45 – Hanover Park to be renamed in honour of the late District Chief, Robert Leek, of the Toronto Fire Services)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/ny/decisions/2009-05-14-ny26-dd.htm>

Comments

On Sunday morning August 10, 2008 an explosion occurred at Sunrise Propane Industrial Gases, 54 Murray Road, resulting in nearly 12,000 residents being evacuated. Over one hundred emergency workers were dispatched to battle the blaze. Sadly, District Chief Bob Leek, a 25-year veteran firefighter of the Toronto Fire Services, collapsed while assisting with the emergency operations during the explosion and fire.

District Chief Leek started with the Toronto Fire Department on June 27, 1983. He worked his way up from firefighter to District Chief of Emergency Planning. In honour of the late District Chief, flags flew at half-mast at the Firefighter's Memorial at Queen's Park and at emergency service stations across Toronto. They were also lowered at City Hall, where Mayor David Miller offered his condolences. District Chief Leek left a wife and son.

Area residents suggested that Hanover Park be renamed to Robert (Bob) Leek Park in honour of District Chief Leek's outstanding service to the City, in particular, his courageous commitment and effort to bring safety to residents affected by the explosion.

Renaming nearby Hanover Park is an opportunity to recognize and appreciate District Chief Leek's unselfish and brave contribution to protecting the safety of residents affected by the Murray Road propane explosion and fire.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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