TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Official Park Naming in Honour of Canadian Veteran Joseph Bannon

Date:	September 26, 2012
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jim Hart, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 7 – York West
Reference Number:	P:\2012\Cluster A\PFR\EY19-101012-AFS#16421

SUMMARY

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

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation is recommending that the new park located at 65 Mary Chapman Boulevard be officially named in honour of Joseph Bannon's significant contributions as a WWII Veteran, and dedication and determination to improve the lives of children and youth.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council:

1. Officially name the new park located at 65 Mary Chapman Boulevard “Joseph Bannon Park” in honour of Mr. Bannon's significant contributions as a WWII Canadian Veteran and commitment to children and youth.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

COMMENTS

Joseph Bannon was born on February 4, 1919. In 1941, he married his sweetheart Doris May Davies and three days later was posted overseas. He was a D-Day Veteran who landed on Juno Beach in Normandy and is recognized in the Juno Beach Memorial Centre in France.

After the War, Veterans were able to purchase a "War Home" and Mr. and Mrs. Bannon bought and moved into a home in the North York community. Mr. Bannon loved his community, was a devoted Catholic and was one of the founding members of the St. Jude's Roman Catholic Church Parish on Weston Road.

Joseph and Doris May had two children of their own, adopted 7 and fostered over 42. In 1960, the Catholic Church recognized their many hours of dedication, compassion and commitment to the less fortunate members of our society and named them Parents of the Year in 1960.

Mr. Bannon retired at the age of 72. In July 2005, he was diagnosed with stomach cancer and carried on with dignity and a positive attitude. On September 17, 2007, he passed away from his disease.

The new park at 65 Mary Chapman Boulevard is a neighbourhood park, 2.09 acres in size and includes an outdoor ice rink, park building (for utility/staff/equipment), senior and junior play structure, splash pad, mini soccer field and over 100 new trees.

Throughout the public consultation process for the park development, which began in 2009, this new park has been consistently referred to as Joseph Bannon Park. There is general public and local support for honouring this community member, who contributed remarkably to the nurturing of children, families and the entire neighbourhood.

CONTACT

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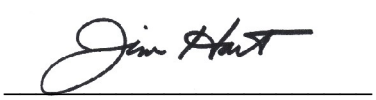

Jim Hart
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation