

Naming the Football Field in Summerlea Park as the Jack Leitch Football Field

Date:	December 20, 2012
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Jim Hart, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 2 – Etobicoke North
Reference Number:	P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\EY21-012213-AFS#16972

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 has reviewed the proposal, and acknowledges the significant contributions Mr. Leitch has made to the City of Toronto. Mr. Jack Leitch was a long-time resident of Toronto. Mr. Leitch currently resides in Calgary; however, he considers Toronto his home. As part of the research of the naming proposal, Parks, Forestry and Recreation reviewed the Council-approved *Honourific and Street Naming Policy* and found that this naming proposal met all of the criteria except for requirement 5.2.2 under "Eligibility and Criteria", which states, "Honourific names shall normally be awarded posthumously to those individuals who have been deceased for at least two years, with exceptions to be approved by City Council."

Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that this report be received for information. Community Council may bring the naming proposal forward at such time when the proposal is in compliance with all of the eligibility and criteria set out in the *Honourific and Street Naming Policy* and not require approval by City Council; or, Community Council may bring forward the naming proposal through a recommendation to City Council requesting an exception to the *Honourific and Street Naming Policy*.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

COMMENTS

For 50 years, Jack Leitch was a respected official of amateur football, including at the university level. He was an on-field official for Northern Football Conference for 14 seasons, and became the League Referee in Chief in 1995. In addition, Jack Leitch was a member and held various positions with many sporting organizations, including senior representative on the Eastern Ontario Tackle Football Association, vice president and lifetime member of the Ontario Football Officials Association, and board member of the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations Bowl Championship Series.

In 2002, Mr. Leitch was awarded the Football Canada Tom Cheney Award for outstanding contribution and service toward the improvement of football officiating in Canada. In 2003, Jack Leitch was awarded the first Ken Green Award by the Toronto Football Officials Association. In 2006, Mr. Leitch was the recipient of the Football Canada / CFL Award of Merit for an outstanding lifetime contribution to football in Canada. In 2008, he was awarded the Sidney Halter Award for a lifetime contribution to officiating amateur football in Canada, and in 2009, Jack Leitch was inducted into the Northern Football Conference Hall of Fame.

In addition to his contribution to amateur football, Mr. Leitch was also a top basketball Official for 45 years, including being Supervisor of University Basketball Officials for many years. He was a lifetime member of the National Association of Underwater Instructors, as an International Skin and Scuba Diving Instructor for 25 years at the two Toronto campuses of York University.

Jack Leitch devoted his professional career to saving lives as a Toronto firefighter (at Fire Hall #8, Queen and Claremont Streets) for 33 years.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in researching this naming proposal. As part of the research of the naming proposal, Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff compared the proposal with the eligibility and criteria set out in the Council-approved *Honourific and Street Naming Policy*. Criteria 5.2.2 states that honourific names shall normally be awarded posthumously to individuals who have been deceased for at least two years. This naming proposal does not meet this criteria.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in the meantime, is recommending that this report be received for information. Community Council may bring the naming proposal forward at such time when the proposal is in compliance with all of the eligibility and criteria set out in the *Honourific and Street Naming Policy* and not require approval by City Council; or, if Community Council wishes to pursue naming of the football field in Summerlea Park at this time, it may forward a recommendation to City Council requesting that the eligibility requirement 5.2.2 of the *Honourific and Street Naming Policy* be waived.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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