

**Report to / Rapport au:**

**Community and Protective Services Committee  
Comité des services communautaires et de protection  
18 June 2015 / 18 juin 2015**

**and Council / et au Conseil  
24 June 2015 / 24 juin 2015**

**Submitted on June 11, 2015  
Soumis le 11 juin 2015**

**Submitted by / Soumis par:  
M. Rick O'Connor, City Clerk and Solicitor/Greffier municipal et chef du  
contentieux**

**Contact Person / Personne ressource:  
Leslie Donnelly, Deputy City Clerk/Greffière adjointe  
(613) 580-2424 x28857, Leslie.Donnelly@ottawa.ca**

**Ward: GLOUCESTER-SOUTH NEPEAN      File Number: ACS2015-CMR-CCB-0076  
(22) / GLOUCESTER-NEPEAN  
SUD (22)**

**SUBJECT: COMMEMORATIVE NAMING – GEORGE WATSON GAZEBO**

**OBJET: NOM COMMÉMORATIF – KIOSQUE GEORGE-WATSON**

**REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council approve the proposal to name the gazebo in Davidson Park, at 5 Ryerson Avenue, the “George Watson Gazebo”.**

**RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT**

**Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection recommande au Conseil d’approuver la proposition visant à nommer le kiosque du parc Davidson, situé au 5, avenue Ryerson, « kiosque George-Watson »**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Commemorative Naming Policy, approved by City Council on July 24, 2002, outlines the criteria and process for commemoratively naming municipal streets, parks and facilities (or parts thereof).

With respect to criteria, a commemorative name honours individuals who are (or have been) citizens of the City of Ottawa or who have made a specific contribution to the City of Ottawa and:

- Demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario and / or Canada;
- Provided extensive community service, or who have an extraordinary community service record;
- Worked to foster equality and reduce discrimination;
- Where the nominated individual is a current City employee, the individual shall have made an outstanding contribution to the City of Ottawa outside of his/her capacity and duties as a City employee or they may be recognized for their exceptional service once they are no longer a City employee;
- The nominated individual has made a significant financial contribution to a park or facility and the contribution significantly benefits the community that the park or facility serves (i.e. the park or facility may not have otherwise been possible without the financial assistance);
- The nominated name has historical significance to the community, City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario, or Canada.

Any member of the public or City Council may submit a name to the City for consideration through a formal Commemorative Naming application and supporting material.

Staff review the name against other criteria (e.g. potential issues for 9-1-1, whether there is an existing commemoration for the same nomination, etc.) and if there are no issues of this nature, forwards the nomination to the Commemorative Naming Committee (consisting of the City Clerk and Solicitor, the Chief Building Official, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, the General Manager,

Public Works, the Mayor and the Ward Councillor or their respective designates); the Commemorative Naming Committee (CNC) reviews the formal application.

As part of the process, the CNC, consisting of applicable City staff, the Mayor and affected Members of Council, provides an initial approval based on the policy's criteria and the information provided by the nominator. Staff is then directed to ensure there is community support for the choice by initiating a 30-day public consultation phase.

Following the consultation process, the CNC reviews the public feedback and makes a final recommendation on the nomination, which is subsequently considered by the appropriate Standing Committee and City Council. In cases where no public objections are received, proposals are brought directly to Standing Committee and Council without the need for a second CNC meeting.

## **DISCUSSION**

Bradley Scott submitted an application to commemorate George Watson. Under the proposal, the gazebo in Davidson Park, at 5 Ryerson Avenue, would be named the "George Watson Gazebo".

The CNC met on April 13, 2015 to review the application and endorsed the proposed name under the following criterion:

- The nominated individual has demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario and/or Canada.

The CNC reconvened on June 10, 2015 to review the public feedback and make a final recommendation on the nomination.

## **RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

An integral part of the Commemorative Naming Process is public consultation on the proposed name. On April 17, 2015, the City announced a 30-day public consultation on the proposed name. The relevant information was communicated through a public service announcement and posted to Ottawa.ca.

By May 16, 2015, the Clerk's office had received 14 responses: 13 in support and one (1) in opposition.

**COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)**

The Ward Councillor is aware of the recommendation of this report.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal impediments to the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

**ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no asset management implications associated with this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

City Clerk and Solicitor Department

Financial costs associated with purchasing a plaque and/or hosting a naming ceremony are provided through the City Clerk and Solicitor's operating budget.

While demand has outpaced resources for several years, the practice has been to accommodate the commemorations within the \$20,000 annual budget and Members of Council and the public are made aware that, once the budget has been spent in any given year, any events will need to carry over into the next year

**ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS**

There are no accessibility impacts related to the recommendation in this report

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications associated with this report

**TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

Not applicable.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

Document 1 – Summary of Proposal: George Watson Gazebo (Ward 22 – Gloucester-South Nepean)

**DISPOSITION**

Following Council approval of the proposal, staff will work with the Ward Councillor to coordinate a ceremonial event to unveil a plaque.

## **Document 1**

### **George Watson Gazebo – (Ward 22 – Gloucester-South Nepean)**

In recognition of George Watson's excellence, courage and exceptional service, the City of Ottawa has been asked to name the gazebo in Davidson Park, at 5 Ryerson Avenue, the "George Watson Gazebo".

A summary of the proposal, submitted by Bradley Scott, is provided below:

George W. Watson (1919-2014) joined the Canadian Army in 1940, at the age of 21, and travelled to Europe for training. Having demonstrated exceptional skill, intelligence and bravery, he was posted to the First Special Services Force. History would eventually refer to this unit as "the Devil's Brigade", a joint American-Canadian unit known for getting the tough assignments.

George served in Italy, joining Operation Husky and aided the Allied liberation of Italy. Towards the end of the war, George was wounded by shrapnel and was honourably discharged back to Canada. Shortly after being discharged, he was awarded several medals of honour, bravery and distinction.

After settling in Ottawa, George became a fixture in the small community of Heart's Desire. He was also an active member of a local Royal Canadian Legion branch from 1993 to 2006.