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Item No. 15.1.6
Halifax Regional Council
December 13, 2022

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Caroline Blair-Smith, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: December 5, 2022

SUBJECT: AN113 – HRM Asset Names, November 1, 2021 – July 1, 2022

ORIGIN

HRM has received asset naming requests from the period November 1, 2021 – July 1, 2022

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order Number 46, Respecting HRM Asset Naming Policies

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve the addition of Barrys Run, Dr Donald Douglas Skeir, Kesalul, Kuowa'quamikt, L'nu, Mi'kma'ki, Wabanaki, and Wela'lin to the existing Commemorative Names List as shown on Attachment A;
2. Approve the renaming of Unnamed Park 27 to Kastik Park at 370 Broad St, Bedford as shown on Attachment B; and
3. Approve the three administrative park names as shown on Attachment C.

BACKGROUND

HRM's Asset Naming Policy Administrative Order (A.O. 46) allows any person or group to apply for a commemorative name for HRM assets, particularly streets, parks or buildings. The A.O. requires the Civic Addressing Coordinator to consult with at least one representative from each asset category, the municipal archivist, and a representative HRM Cultural Affairs on each application. This group forms the HRM Asset Naming Committee and the Committee also consults with the local Councillor (s) for each application.

Requests

The Committee recommends Regional Council approve the 12 requests that were received from staff and residents from the period of November 1, 2021, to July 1, 2022, as outlined below:

- a) 8 names to be added to the commemorative names list;
- b) 1 renaming of a park; and
- c) 3 administrative park names.

Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition of Indigenous History

In July of 2020 Regional Council approved the Task Force recommendations, specifically that the diversity of new names for streets and other HRM assets be enhanced by working with the Mi'kmaw community to generate an expanded list of potential names. In response, staff are proposing 6 Mi'kmaw language names to be added to the Commemorative Names List.

DISCUSSION

The HRM Asset Naming Committee reviewed all of the requests and recommends that Regional Council approve all 12 requests as outlined below:

Commemorative Names List

Commemorative names recognize individual persons, groups of people, tradition bearers and geographic features. The Asset Naming criteria states that individuals who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM, the Province of Nova Scotia and/or Canada may be recognized. The criteria also allow for names that recognize geographical or topographical features of the area and traditions and tradition bearers. The Asset Naming Committee is recommending approval of eight commemorative name applications as follows:

- One geographic feature name - **Barrys Run**;
- One commemoration name - **Dr Donald Douglas Skeir**; and
- Six Mi'kmaw language names as per the Task Force's recommendations: **Kesalul**, **Kuowa'quamikt**, **L'nu**, **Mi'kma'ki**, **Wabanaki**, and **Wela'lin**. The full background, definitions and pronunciation of these names are outlined in Attachment A.

These names meet the criteria of the HRM Asset Naming Policies. Therefore, the Asset Naming Committee recommends that these applications, as outlined in Attachment A be approved and added to the commemorative names list.

Park Renaming

As per the park naming standard procedure, all parks are given an administrative name until a commemorative name is chosen. In keeping with the Task Force recommendation to diversify new names

on HRM assets, park staff have chosen a Mi'kmaw language name for an Unnamed Park on Broad St, Bedford – which is now known as Unnamed Park 27.

The HRM Asset Naming Committee recommends renaming Unnamed Park 27 to **Kastik Park**.

Administrative Park Naming

Administrative names reflect either the neighborhood, subdivision, street, or community name in which a park or park feature is located and are approved by Regional Council. Since the previous asset naming report, three administrative names have been submitted they are:

- **Beaufort Avenue Park** -1190 Beaufort Avenue, Halifax (District 7)
- **Brookline Drive Trailhead Park** - 270 Brookline Drive, Bedford (District 13)
- **Southampton Drive Park** - 238 Southampton Drive, Cole Harbour (District 4)

Staff have reviewed the names and recommend that the administrative names be approved by Regional Council, as shown in Attachment C.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are minimal costs associated with the administration of the HRM's Asset Naming Policy. These costs can be accommodated within the existing 2022-2023 operating budget for C340 Heritage and Planning Information Services within Planning and Development.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report. The risks considered rate "Low".

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. The level of community engagement is ongoing and is achieved through promotion online and the creation of printed marketing material and engaging local interest groups. Any member of the community is welcome to submit applications for commemorative names within HRM.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could choose to approve some, or all, of the requested names.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Commemorative Name Applications for Commemorative Names List

Attachment B: Kastik Park

Attachment C: Administrative Park Names

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Gayle MacLean, Civic Addressing Coordinator, 902.719.9102

**Attachment A – Commemorative Name Applications for
Commemorative Names List**

1. Barrys Run

Request

-Street

Geographic Location

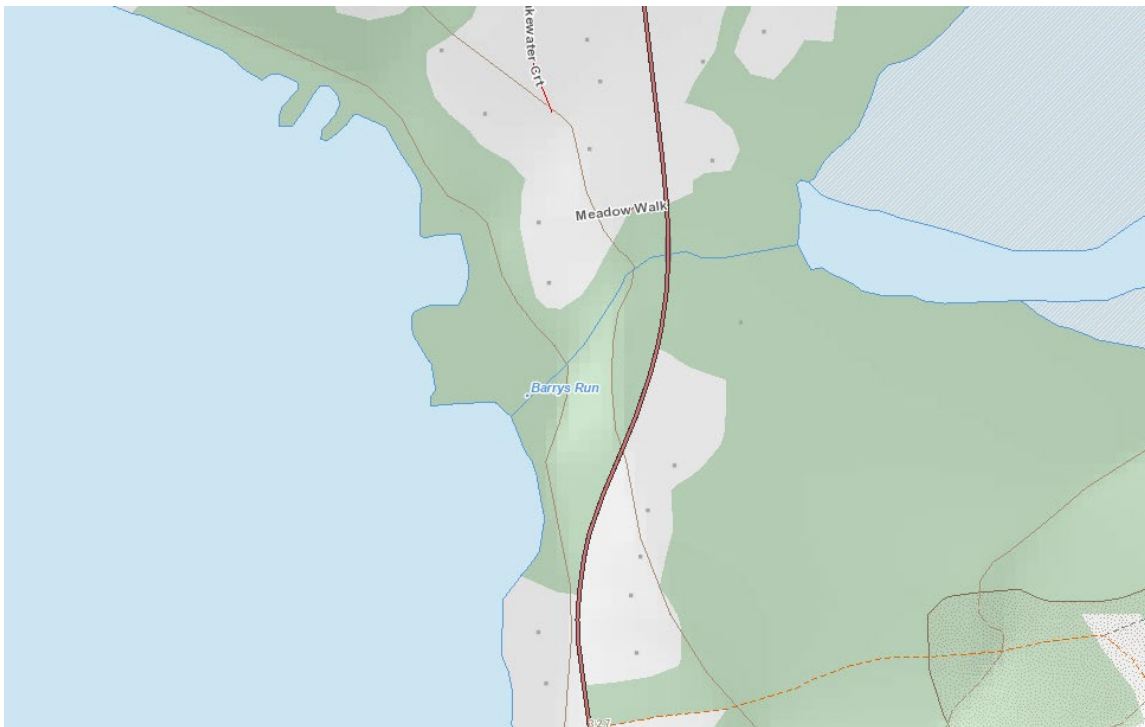
- Dartmouth – Parks at Port Wallace – adjacent to the water feature, Barrys Run

Request to be considered under the following criteria

- requested name recognizes geographic or topographical features of the area

Background

- Barrys Run is an official place name in the Provincial Gazetteer
- It was changed from Mitchell Brook to Barrys Run in October 1975



2. Dr. Donald Skeir's Application

Request:

- any

Geographic Location:

- Any of the historic Preston Township Communities (East Preston, North Preston, Cherry Brook, Lake Loon, Highway 7 area)

Request to be considered under the following criteria

- individual(s) who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM, NS and/or Canada
- requested name is historically significant to the development of HRM, NS and/or Canada
- individual(s) who have an extraordinary community service record
- individual(s) who have risked his/her life to save or protect others
- requested name reflects the history and or culture of HRM's culturally diverse communities

Biography (as provided by the applicant)

Rev Dr. Donald Douglas Skeir (1926-1999) was born in Halifax. He served 40 plus years as Pastor of three of the largest African Nova Scotia Communities in HRM, namely East Preston United Baptist Church, Cherry Brook United Baptist Church and St Thomas United Baptist Church in North Preston. In 1995 he received an honorary doctorate degree from Acadia University.

Not only was he a Pastor in the African Nova Scotian communities he was also a teacher for over 25 years at Nelson Whynder Elementary, Sir Robert Borden Junior High and Bell Park Academic Centre.

He was a member of many organizations and societies which included:

- Past Moderator and Clerk of the African United Baptist Association (AUBA)
- Board Member of the Black Incentive Fund for Black Students
- Charter Member of the 100th Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society – Preston Branch
- Charter Member of the NS Association for the Advancement of Coloured Children
- Chairperson of the East Preston Daycare Centre Board of Directors
- Former President, Board Member and Treasurer of the NS Home for Coloured Children
- Member of the Black Learners Advisory Committee
- Member of the Advanced Management Committee for Blacks
- Member of the Advisory Board for the Black Educator's Association of NS (BEA)
- Member of the County School Committee on Racism
- Director of the Society for the Protection of Black Culture in NS (Black Cultural Centre)
- Director of the NS Human Rights Commission

He was a representative to the Baptist World Alliance in LA, California and a representative for the NS Human Rights Commission at the Southern Leadership Convention in Philadelphia, USA.

Rev Dr. Skeir was noted for his strong voice concerning human rights issues. He was a noted human rights advocate and was the recipient of an award from the NS Human Rights Commission.

Rev Dr Skeir was an eloquent and dynamic Preacher and was often referred to as the “Nova Scotia Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King” for his unwavering stand in support of Human Rights. He received numerous awards such as

- Harry Jerome Award*
- Unsung Hero Martin Luther King Jr Award*
- Human Rights Commission of NS*
- Canadian Red Cross Society*
- Newsmaker of the Year in NS*
- Black Wall of Fame*

Rev Skeir conducted the largest outdoor Baptism in the history of Canada in July 1976 where he baptized 110 people down by the riverside in East Preston, NS.

The Reverend Dr. Donald & Evelina Skeir Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in February 2000 to perpetuate their memory and lasting contributions in the area of human rights; community development, global, national, provincial, municipal and community history; religious leadership, and to support excellence in education.

Letters of Support: *Angela A Simmonds MLA – Preston*
 African United Baptist Association of Nova Scotia

3. Mi'kmaw Language Names

Origin

On June 21, 2020 Regional Council approved the following recommendation from the Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History:

(13) That the diversity of new names for streets and other HRM assets be enhanced by working with the Mi'kmaw community to generate an expanded list of potential names.

Request

-Any asset

Geographic Location

- See below

Requests to be considered under the following criteria

-Requested name reflects or represents traditions and or tradition bearers

Name	Meaning	Pronunciation	Location
Kesalul	I love you	Ge-Sa-Lul	Any
Kuowa'quamikt	Halifax Peninsula	Goo-Oh-Aaah-Koo-Um-Icked	Halifax Peninsula
L'nu	The term Mi'kmaq use for themselves, their autonym, meaning us the people. It is derived from the word for tongue. This shows the connectiveness with the people and the language.	Eil-Nu	Any
Mi'kma'ki	The traditional and current territories of the Mi'kmaq people. This area covers the area of Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland, New Brunswick and the Gaspé region of Quebec.	Mii-Ge-Maa-Gi	Any
Wabanaki	The Mi'kmaq Nation belonged to a much larger tribal grouping known as the 'Wabanaki Confederacy'.	Wah-buh-nah-kee	Any
Wela'lin	Thank you	Well-Law-Lynn	Any

Attachment B – Kastik Park

Request

- Rename Unnamed Park 27 (see map below) to Kastik Park

Geographic Location

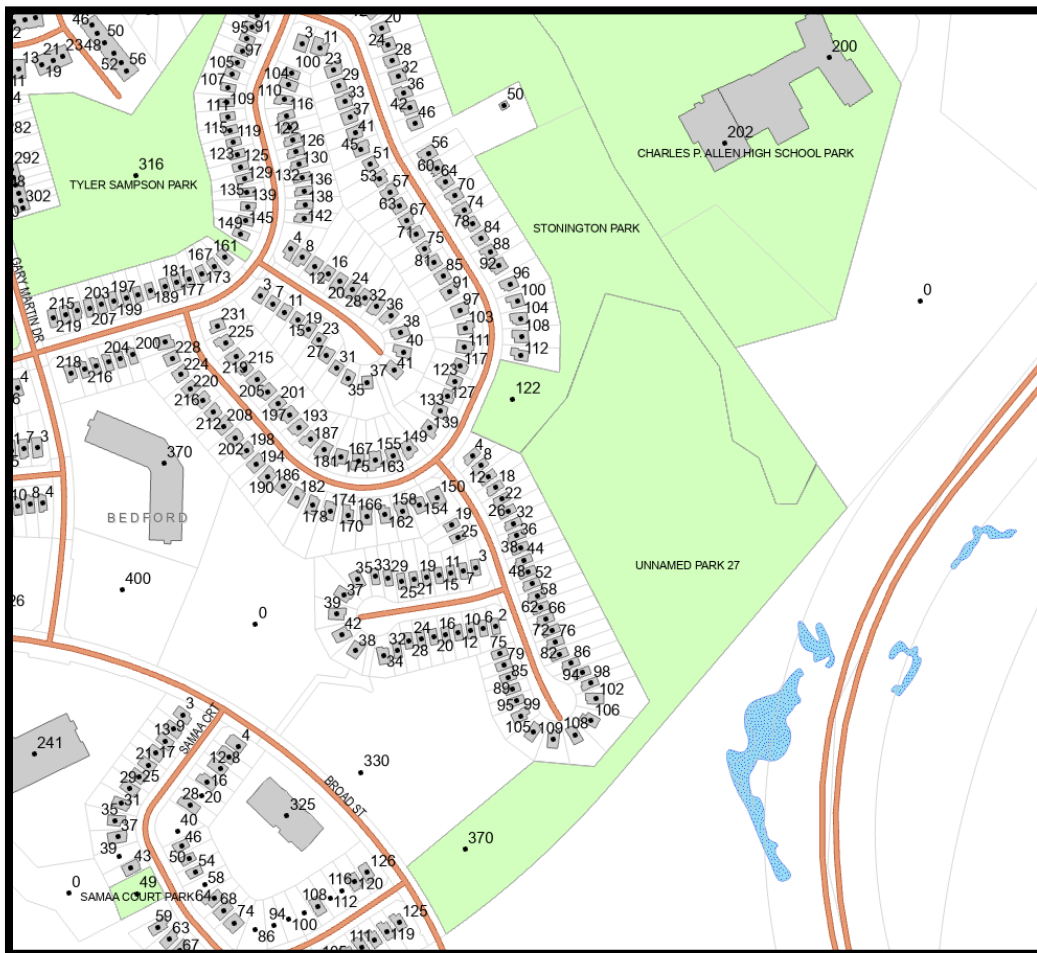
- 370 Broad Street, Bedford

Background

- Until a commemorative name is selected, parks are administratively named after their associated street. If, as in this case, there is already a park on the street with the administrative name of that street, the subsequent parks on that street are assigned the name Unnamed Park with a unique identification number. These parks are not named until infrastructure/signage is being installed on the property.

Commemorative Name Approval

- Kastik (ground juniper) was approved by Regional Council at their March 22, 2022 meeting.



Attachment C –Administrative Park Names

1. Beaufort Avenue Park
-1190 Beaufort Avenue, Halifax (District 7)
2. Brookline Drive Trailhead Park
-270 Brookline Drive, Bedford (District 13)
3. Southampton Drive Park
-238 Southampton Drive, Cole Harbour (District 4)