



## Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: May 22, 2018

Report Number: SRPRS.18.132

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services

Division: Policy Planning

**Subject: SRPRS.18.132 – Park Renaming Request for North Shore Parkette**

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### Purpose:

To report on the request of renaming North Shore Parkette to “Syl Cachia Parkette”.

### Recommendation(s):

- a) That the proposed renaming of North Shore Parkette to “Syl Cachia Parkette” be advertised in *The Liberal* newspaper and on the Town’s website with a request for public comments in accordance with the Town’s *Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities*; and
- b) That staff report back regarding public comments on the proposed name and with final recommendations for renaming the site.

### Contact Person:

Daniel Harrietha, Parks Planning Technician, phone number 905-771-2474.

### Report Approval:

**Submitted by:** Kelvin Kwan, Commissioner of Planning and Regulatory Services

**Approved by:** Neil Garbe, Chief Administrative Officer

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), Town Solicitor (as required), Commissioner, and Chief Administrative Officer. Details of the reports approval are attached.

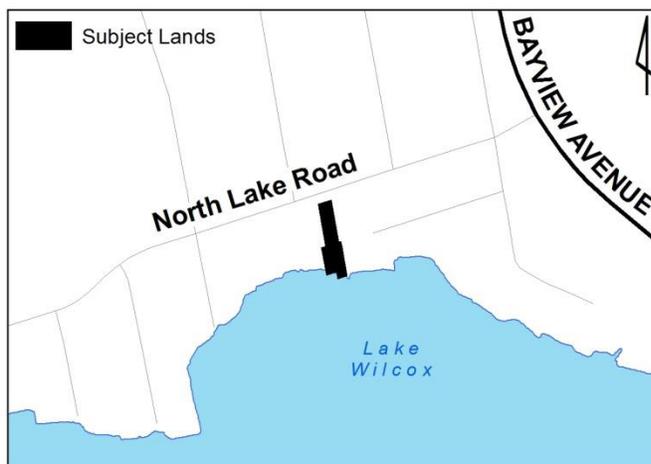
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### Background:

At the April 9, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting, a motion was put forward by Councillor Beros to rename North Shore Parkette after local resident Syl Cachia. Council requested that the process outlined in the Richmond Hill *Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities* be followed while moving the potential renaming of the North Shore Parkette forward (see Appendix A).

North Shore Parkette is located in Ward 1 along the north shore of Lake Wilcox (see Map 1). The name North Shore Parkette was approved by Council in October 1979 to name the lands that were acquired off of North Lake Road for the Fergus Avenue storm sewer outlet. The parkette has provided lake access for local residents, as well as acting as a place for passive recreation.

Map 1. Location of North Shore Parkette



It is proposed that the lands currently known as North Shore Parkette be renamed “Syl Cachia Parkette” in honour of Syl Cachia, who died on January 2, 2018 after a short illness. Mr. Cachia was 85 years old at the time of his death and was a longtime resident of the Oak Ridges community for over 50 years. He lived at 615 North Lake Road, which is the property immediately to the east of North Shore Parkette, and spent many hours tending to the small parkette beside his home, including appearing before Council to ask for better accessibility to the park and routinely asking for it to be “cleaned up” by Town staff.

There is anecdotal evidence that Syl Cachia had a strong commitment to the Lake Wilcox area and was very active in the neighbourhood. He valued the importance of public participation in municipal affairs as he was a regular contributor to Council meetings since at least 1986. Based upon examination of public records, his appearances before Council were for a variety of reasons, ranging from safety concerns along North Lake Road, the condition of Lake Wilcox, and to development within the local area. His value to civic duty also led to his appointment as an official Fence Viewer for the Town for the term May 3, 1999 to November 30, 2000, at a time when

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Fence Viewers were still designated by the Town. Mr. Cachia was also a long time member of the Oak Ridges Lions Club.

Renaming a park site in honour of individuals with the intent to memorialize those individuals who have made exemplary or meritorious contributions to the Town is consistent with Section 3.1 of the Town's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities*. (see Appendix B) The Planning and Regulatory Services Department has confirmed that the name does not conflict with any existing park/open space, road, or facility name currently in use across the Town. The immediate family of Mr. Cachia has also indicated their approval of the proposed name. At the time of writing this report Staff has received written submissions in opposition to the proposed renaming to Syl Cachia Parkette.

The Town's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities* indicates that proposed names should be advertised in *The Liberal* newspaper with a request for public comments. Staff will also advertise concurrently on the Town of Richmond Hill's website seeking input from the public. In accordance with the policy, staff will report back to Council regarding any input on the proposed park renaming received during a 30 day commenting period and make a recommendation regarding final approval of the name.

### **Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:**

The financial implications associated with the renaming of North Shore Parkette will be limited to approximately \$500 to replace the park entrance sign, which is fabricated in-house by the Town's sign shop. The \$500 can be accommodated through the existing Marketing, Printing and Promotions account (account # 521-102140).

Limited resident confusion as a result of changing an existing park name, as well as inconsistencies with Town promotional material containing the existing park name, are also expected implications of adopting the recommendations of this report.

### **Relationship to the Strategic Plan:**

Promoting the Town's cultural and natural heritage through park, open space and recreation facility names fosters a sense of identity and place that contributes to a more vibrant Richmond Hill. Additionally, the naming process provides an opportunity for residents to become involved with their community.

### **Conclusion:**

Pursuant to the naming process established in the policy, it is recommended that the name be advertised in *The Liberal* newspaper and on the Town's website to solicit public comment. Staff will report back to Council regarding a final recommendation on the proposed name following the required 30 day public notification period.

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**Attachments:**

If you require an alternative format of the appendix, please call contact person listed in this document.

- Appendix A, Extract from Council Meeting C#12-18 held on April 16, 2018
- Appendix B, Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities

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**Report Approval Details**

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|----------------------|--|
| Document Title:      | SRPRS.18.132 Park Renaming Request - North Shore Parkette.docx |
| Attachments:         | - SRPRS.18.132 Appendix A.pdf<br>- SRPRS.18.132 Appendix B.pdf |
| Final Approval Date: | May 15, 2018   |

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Patrick Lee - May 14, 2018 - 3:34 PM**

**Kelvin Kwan - May 15, 2018 - 7:33 AM**

**David Dexter - May 15, 2018 - 7:53 AM**

**Neil Garbe - May 15, 2018 - 10:19 AM**