



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: September 23, 2020

Report Number: SRPRS.20.123

Department: Planning and Regulatory Services

Division: Policy Planning

Subject: SRPRS.20.123 – Naming of Parks

Purpose:

To receive approval for the names of two new park sites within the City's park and natural heritage system.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the proposed name "Private Thomas Armstrong Millar Park" be approved in principle for the site described in staff report SRPRS.20.123;
- b) That the recently approved park name "Private Charles Hill Park" be directed to the site described in staff report SRPRS.20.123;
- c) That the 30-day public input period for the recently approved park name "Private Charles Hill Park" being directed to the site described in staff report SRPRS.20.123 be waived out of respect to the family and in accordance with the City's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities*;
- d) That the proposed name "Private Thomas Armstrong Millar Park" be advertised on the City's website with request for public comments in accordance with the City's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities*; and
- e) That staff report back to Council regarding public comments of the proposed "Private Thomas Armstrong Millar Park" and with final recommendations for naming the sites.

Contact Person:

Anant Patel, Parks Planner, phone number 905-771-2492, and/or

Michelle Dobbie, Manager Parks and Natural Heritage Planning, phone number 905-771-2467

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Report Approval:

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

Approved by: Mary-Anne Dempster, City Manager

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

Background:

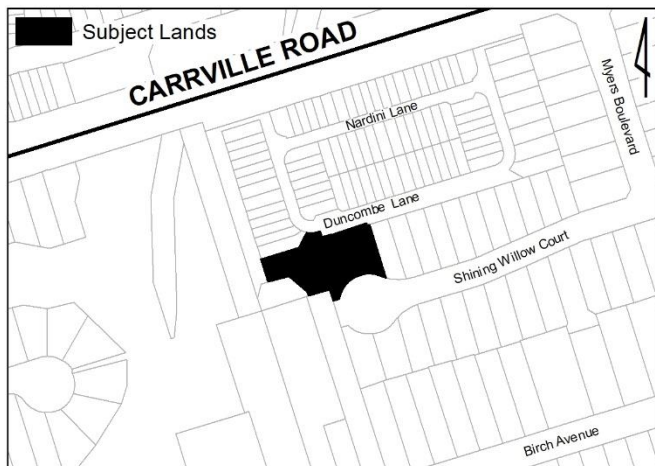
At its meeting on May 13, 2020, Council directed staff to relocate the name of “Private Charles Hill Park” from the parkette at Rockwell Road, as outlined in staff report SRPRS.19.170 (see Appendix A) and as Council had recently approved, to the parkette on Shining Willow/Petrolia Court. Additionally, Council directed staff to initiate the process to name the new parkette on Rockwell Road, “Private Thomas Armstrong Millar Park”.

These proposed names are consistent with the City’s *Policy for Naming and Renaming City Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities* (see Appendix B) for the two sites within the City’s parks and natural heritage system as follows:

Pte. Charles Hill Park (Park Class: Parkette)

Location: Ward 5, Shining Willow/Petrolia Court, see Map 1

Map 1. Location of Pte. Charles Hill Park



Private Charles Hill was a resident of the suburb of Richvale at the start of the Second World War. Born in September 1919 to John and Sarah Ann Hill, he enlisted just before his 20th birthday with the Royal Regiment of Canada. After his enlistment, Private Hill served in both Iceland and England before making the ultimate sacrifice for his

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community and his country as part of the landing group that raided the beaches of Dieppe on August 19, 1942. He is laid to rest in the Dieppe Canadian War Cemetery, located in the village of Hautot-sur-Mer in France.

This report recommends that the 30-day public input period for the recently approved Private Charles Hill Park be waived, out of respect to the family and in accordance with the City's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Town Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities* (section 4.4 in Appendix A).

Pte. Thomas Armstrong Millar Park (Park Class: Parkette)

Location: Ward 6, Rockwell Road, see Map 2

Map 2. Location of Pte. Thomas Armstrong Millar Park



Private Thomas Armstrong Millar was a resident of Richvale prior to enlisting for World War II. He was born on September 9, 1920 to Thomas Senior and Celia Millar, and married Beatrice Lillian Butler in May of 1940. He enlisted just before his 20th birthday with the Royal Regiment of Canada. After his enlistment, Private Millar served in Iceland between June and October of 1940 before making the ultimate sacrifice for his community and his country as part of the landing group that raided the beaches of Dieppe on August 19, 1942. Private Millar has no known grave and is commemorated at the Brookwood Memorial in Surry, England.

The City's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities* indicates that proposed names be advertised with a request for public comments. Staff will advertise on the City 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 names received during the 30-day commenting period and make a recommendation regarding final approval of the names.

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Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

There are no financial, staffing or other implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

Promoting the City'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:

The proposed names are consistent with the guidelines for naming set out in the City's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities*. Staff will report back to Council regarding a final recommendation on the proposed names following the required 30-day public notification period.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Appendix A, Staff Report SRPRS.19.170 – Naming of Parks
- Appendix B, Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.20.123 - Naming of Parks.docx
Attachments:	- Appendix A - SRPRS.20.123.pdf - Appendix B - SRPRS.20.123.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Sep 2, 2020

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

Patrick Lee - Sep 1, 2020 - 2:29 PM

Kelvin Kwan - Sep 1, 2020 - 2:30 PM

MaryAnne Dempster - Sep 2, 2020 - 9:22 AM