



## Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** December 4, 2019

**Report Number:** SRPRS.19.170

**Department:** Planning and Regulatory Services

**Division:** Policy Planning

**Subject:** SRPRS.19.170 – Naming of Parks

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### **Purpose:**

To propose names for two parkette sites within the City's park and natural heritage system.

### **Recommendation(s):**

- a) That the proposed names "Abraham Law Parkette" and "Pte. Charles Hill Park" be approved in principle for the sites described in SRPRS.19.170;
- b) That the proposed names be advertised on the City's website with a request for public comments in accordance with the City's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities*; and
- c) That staff report back to Council regarding public comments of the proposed names and with final recommendations for naming the sites.

### **Contact Person:**

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

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

### **Report Approval:**

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

**Approved by:** Neil Garbe, 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.

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### Background:

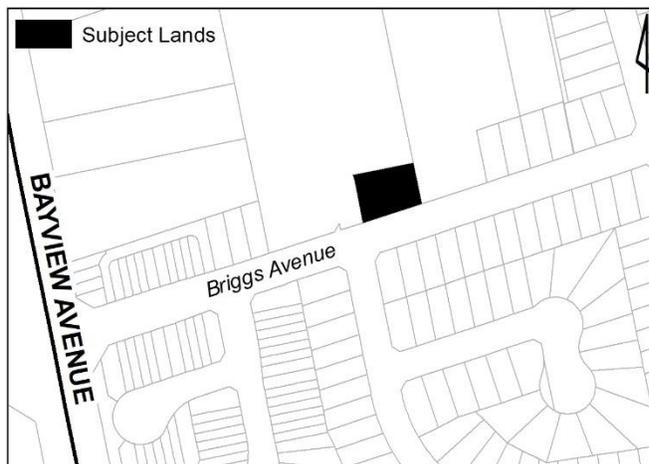
At the Council meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, Council directed that staff report SRPRS.19.106 regarding the naming of parks be referred back to staff for consultation with the Richmond Hill Royal Canadian Legion and the Richmond Hill Historical Society. Staff have followed up with the suggested community groups and have agreed on two new proposed names for the parkettes. Additionally, staff have contacted family representatives for Pte. Charles Hill to receive their consent to the naming.

This report proposes names that are consistent with the City's *Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities* (see Appendix A) for the two sites within the City's park and natural heritage system as follows:

### Abraham Law Parkette (Park Class: Parkette)

Location: Ward 6, Briggs Avenue, see Map 1

Map 1. Location of Abraham Law Parkette



Abraham Law was the first Reeve of the first Village of Richmond Hill Council. He became Reeve for the newly incorporated village in January of 1873. Prior to this incorporation Richmond Hill was a community without its own civic identity, divided into two parts, with everything east of Yonge Street being a part of Markham or Whitchurch Township and everything west of Yonge Street being a part of Vaughan or King Township. Incorporation into a village allowed Richmond Hill to have its community's concerns heard while not relying on other township councils for their own civic goals. With Richmond Hill becoming a City earlier this year in March 2019, this commemoration would recognize the growth of Richmond Hill full circle, from Village to Town to City.

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### **Pte. Charles Hill Park (Park Class: Parkette)**

Location: Ward 6, Rockwell Road, see Map 2

Map 2. Location of Pte. Charles Hill Park



Private Charles Hill was a resident of the suburb of Richvale at the start of Second World War. Born in September 1919 to John and Sarah Ann Hill, he enlisted just before his 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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.

### **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.

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### 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 Policy for Naming and Renaming Parks, Open Space and Recreation Facilities (November 2019)
- Appendix B Staff Report SRPRS.19.106 – Naming of Parks – Follow Up

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### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRPRS.19.170 - Naming of Parks.docx
Attachments:	- SRPRS.19.170 - Appendix A.pdf - SRPRS.19.170 - Appendix B.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 20, 2019

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

**Patrick Lee - Nov 20, 2019 - 9:07 AM**

**Kelvin Kwan - Nov 20, 2019 - 9:24 AM**

**Neil Garbe - Nov 20, 2019 - 10:30 AM**