

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS COMMUNITY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 24, 2017
FROM:	CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK
SUBJECT:	REQUEST FOR RENAMING CARFRAE PARK WEST TO CHARLES HUNT PARK

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Civic Administration the request to rename "Carfrae Park West" to "Charles Hunt Park", BE APPROVED.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

None.

BACKGROUND

The attached submission (Appendix "A") from Jay Hunt to rename "Carfrae Park West" to "Charles Hunt Park" in recognition of London businessman and founder of City Mills, Charles Hunt, has been considered in accordance with Council Policy 3(7), being the "Naming/Re-naming or Dedicating of Municipal Property, Buildings and Park Elements" Policy".

The following additional materials have been submitted in support of the application:

- A letter of support from Hilary Bates Neary
- A letter of support from London & Middlesex Historical Society
- An email in support from Robin Keirstead, University Archivist , Western University
- A letter of support from the Old South Community Organization

Rationale in support of the Application

The application submission indicates the following in support of the application:

- Charles Hunt was one of the most prominent London businessmen from about 1853 until his death in 1871.
- Mr. Hunt made a significant contribution to the industrial history of London with the establishment of a long-running flour mill and other enterprises which benefited London and its citizens for many decades.
- Carfrae Park West is in the vicinity of where Charles Hunt and his family resided.
- Mr. Hunt built the following enterprises in London:
 - City Mills
 - Hunt Dam
 - Bank of British North America
 - 750 ton steamship, the 'Union' for the Great Western Railway
 - Wooden foot bridge across the Thames
 - A block of offices centered around 361-3 Richmond Street in downtown London, which became known as "The Hunt's Block"
 - 70,000 bushel grain elevator at the foot of Bathurst Street
- Mr. Hunt also operated a retail store in the Hunt Block on Richmond Street.

- Mr. Hunt held the following appointments in the London financial and commercial community during his life:
 - President of the Board of Trade
 - Chairman of the group that briefly operated London City Oil Refining Company
 - First president of the City Gas Company (now part of Union Gas Company)
 - Director of the Bank of British North America
 - President of the Ontario Loan and Debenture Company
 - Director of the Great Western railway
 - Warden of St. Paul's Cathedral
- Mr. Hunt was well-known for his charity efforts in the City. Among his many charitable acts, he:
 - Supported a missionary in the north of the diocese of Huron
 - Provided flour for the poor
 - Arranged the shipment of cheap wood during firewood shortage
 - Built a public skating rink on Horton Street at the site of what later became the London Arena.
- The various Hunt enterprises continued in operation for 86 years following his death.
- In May 2016, the City of London held a heritage interpretive signage unveiling at Carfrae Park West to commemorate Charles Hunt and the City Mills.

Carfrae Park

Carfrae Park is located on both the east and the west side of Carfrae Crescent, south of Gray Street and adjacent to the south side of the Thames River. (see location map Appendix "B")

The proposal is to rename only "Carfrae Park West" to "Charles Hunt Park". No change is proposed to the name "Carfrae Park East", other than to remove the reference to "East" as this would no longer be required.

The following information is a summary of the information shared with LACH and its Education Subcommittee:

"Carfrae Park West

The colonial history of the property now known as Carfrae Park West starts in 1790 when the British Crown acquired the land from the Chippewas, Ottawa, and Pottawatami people. Shortly after, Abraham Iredell surveyed the general area, and Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe visited the Thames River environs in 1793. In 1810-1811, Simon Z. Watson surveyed this portion of Westminster Township (Concessions I and II, and Broken Front Concessions A and B) into long, narrow 100 acre lots running perpendicular to the Thames River.

Watson's 1811 map of Westminster Township shows the Robert Carfrae (1804-1881) as the occupant of Lot 27, Concession B Broken Front (the subject lands; likely a later addition). Robert Carfrae was a carpenter turned land prospector, who was among London's first inhabitants. He was formally granted the land in 1835, but was known to have been in Westminster Township by 1827 to assist with the construction of the Middlesex County Court House (399 Ridout Street North).

A review of historical maps and images (e.g. 1811 Watson map, 1839 Eyre map, 1872 Glover's Bird's Eye View, 1878 Illustrated Historical Atlas, 1922 aerial photograph) shows no development on the subject lands throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The subject lands remained within the ownership of the Carfrae family, whose home is still located at 39 Carfrae Street, until it was acquired by the City in the 1930s for property taxes owing. Carfrae Park West was subsequently established. Carfrae Street, Carfrae Crescent, and Carfrae Park [East] are named in recognition of the contributions of Robert Carfrae and the Carfrae family to the establishment of London.

Charles Hunt

City Mill, owned by Charles Hunt (1820-1871) was established on the north side of the Thames River in 1854-1855 from land purchased from John Kinder Labatt. His mansion, Ingledene, was located on the south side of the Thames River with a private footbridge linking his home to his business. Following a fire in 1917, City Mill relocated to a new building at 471 Nightingale Avenue and Ingledene was demolished and replaced with the

Boug Apartments (50 Ridout Street South, northeast corner of Ridout Street South and Carfrae Crescent) in 1935.

Sources

Michael Baker and Hilary Bates Neary, eds. "Carfrae Street and Crescent." *London Street Names: An Illustrated Guide*. 2003.

Michael Baker and Hilary Bates Neary, eds. "Charles Hunt." *100 Fascinating Londoners*. 2005.

"The Legacy of Charles Hunt, 1820-1871." Transcribed by Jay Hunt.

"The Private Journal of Charles Hunt." Transcribed by Jay Hunt.

Timmins Martelle Heritage Consultants. Stage 1 & 2 Archaeological Assessment Carfrae Park East and West. Draft April 2017.

Research file. Heritage Planner"

Review of Council Policy entitled "Naming/Re-naming or Dedicating of Municipal Property, Buildings and Park Elements"

The Council Policy entitled "Name/Re-naming or Dedicating of Municipal Property, Buildings and Park Elements" states the following:

- (a) Priority (in order of preference) shall be given to continuing the current naming/re-naming practice of City of London property and buildings after:
1. the area or planning district in which the property or building is located to provide a geographical association to help the public to locate to a park, bridge or building more easily;
 2. the most dominant "constant feature either within or nearby" the selected site such as an associated significant ecological or natural resource feature;
 3. an historical name related to London's heritage and/or historical folklore;
 4. an event or person of international, national or provincial significance; or
 5. an organization (or individual, with the section of election officials currently in office) to recognize:
 - particular activities and significant contributions to the London community and/or society; and/or
 - outstanding contributions and/or sponsorships made toward the development and/or enhancement of a property or building.
- (b) Preference shall be given to naming City of London Elements (within parks or buildings) after an organization or an individual.

The Policy indicates that names shall be unique and name duplication and similar sounding names shall be avoided.

Applicants are to assume responsibility for securing consensus with the community with respect to the application. Opposition to the application must be addressed by the applicant.

The Policy further indicates that the applicant is to consult with external stakeholders in the community and identify possible objections and/or positive responses to determine the level of support for the requested civic naming. As noted previously in this report, we are in receipt of submissions in support from Hilary Bates Neary, London & Middlesex Historical Society, Robin Keirstead, University Archivist Western University and the Old South Community Organization.

Application Review

The Municipal Addressing Advisory Group (MAAG), which is comprised of representatives from Emergency Services, Utility Companies, the City's Planning, Compliance Services, Clerk's and Engineering Services has indicated no objection to the proposed name of "Charles Hunt Park".

Municipal Council, at its meeting held on April 4, 2017 approved the following recommendation of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH):

“8.b) the following actions be taken with respect to the Education Sub-committee report appended to the 3rd Report of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage from its meeting held on March 6, 2017:

- i) the renaming of Carfrae Park West to Charles Hunt Park BE SUPPORTED by the London Advisory Committee on Heritage; and,”

It is noted that on May 16, 2016, cultural heritage interpretive signage highlighting the legacy of Charles Hunt and City Mill was installed on Carfrae Park West.

Parks Planning indicates no objections in renaming of “Carfrae Park West” to “Charles Hunt Park”. It is noted the word “east” will be removed from the name of the remaining Carfrae Park as there would no longer be a “west” portion of Carfrae Park”.

The following criterion has been established by Council Policy 3(7) when consideration is being given to naming/renaming Municipal property, building or park element, after an individual:

- The contribution they have made to the public life and the well-being of London
- The sponsorship contribution made toward the acquisition, creation or redevelopment of the property, building or feature;
- A direct relationship or association that existed between the place of residence of the individual and the property, building or element to be named; and,
- Where the name of an individual or organization is used, approval shall be obtained from the individual (his/her family) or the organization for such naming.

Council Policy 3(7) provides for a civic recognition to be requested by a member of the public to recognize a group or an individual’s outstanding accomplishments, involvement or work in the local community or in a provincial or national forum.

The Civic Administration is of the opinion that the application does provide information in support of the criterion outlines above, noting that Charles Hunt, like Robert Carfrae, are both historical names with links to the area and both will continue to be recognized in the area. For these reasons, it is anticipated that there would be little, if any, impact to the neighbourhood by renaming a portion of the park.

Financial Implications

The Civic Administration has advised that the cost to place signage at the Park is minimal and can be absorbed within the Parks Planning budget.

Conclusion

The Civic Administration is recommending that in light that the contributions of Robert Carfrae will remain in place though Carfrae Park, that the request to rename “Carfrae Park West” to “Charles Hunt Park” be approved.

PREPARED AND RECOMMENDED BY:
CATHY SAUNDERS CITY CLERK