

Report to/Rapport au:

**Community and Protective Services Committee
Comité des services communautaires et de protection**

and Council / et au Conseil

**January 17, 2013
17 janvier 2013**

Submitted by/Soumis par:

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Ward: WEST CARLETON-MARCH (5)	Reference Number: ACS2012-CMR-CCB-0084
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SUBJECT:	Commemorative Naming Proposal – Martha Webber Trail
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OBJET:	Proposition de nomination commémorative - sentier Martha-Webber
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REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That Community and Protective Services Committee recommend that Council approve the proposal to name an unnamed trail at Sheila McKee Park, located at 1730 Sixth Line Road, as “Martha Webber Trail.”

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection recommande que le Conseil municipale approuve l’attribution du nom « sentier Martha Webber » au sentier sans nom au parc Sheila McKee, situé au 1730, chemin Sixth Line.

BACKGROUND

The Commemorative Naming Policy, approved by City Council on July 24, 2002, outlines the criteria and process for commemoratively naming municipal streets, parks and facilities (or parts thereof).

With respect to criteria, a commemorative name honours individuals who are (or have been) citizens of the City of Ottawa or have made a specific contribution to the City of Ottawa and:

- Demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario and/or Canada;
- Provided extensive community service, or who have an extraordinary community service record;
- Worked to foster equality and reduce discrimination;
- Where the nominated individual is a current City employee, the individual shall have made an outstanding contribution to the City of Ottawa outside of his/her capacity and duties as a City employee or they may be recognized for their exceptional service once they are no longer a City employee;
- The nominated individual has made a significant financial contribution to a park or facility and the contribution significantly benefits the community that the park or facility serves (i.e. the park or facility may not have otherwise been possible without the financial assistance);
- The nominated name has historical significance to the community, City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario, or Canada.

Any member of the public or City Council may submit a name to the City for consideration. The process is initiated through submission of a Commemorative Naming application and support material. The policy provides a process for the nomination of the following: a name to be added to the commemorative names reserve list for future consideration; a name for a particular venue selected by the applicant; a name for a venue that is presently named.

As part of the process, the Commemorative Naming Committee—consisting of applicable City staff, the Mayor and affected Members of Council—provides an initial approval based on the policy’s criteria and the information provided by the nominator. Staff is then directed to ensure there is community support for the choice by initiating a 60-day consultation phase. Following the consultation process, the Commemorative Naming Committee reviews the public feedback and makes a final recommendation on the nomination, which is subsequently considered by the appropriate Standing Committee and City Council.

The membership of the Commemorative Naming Committee consists of the City Clerk and Solicitor, the Chief Building Official, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, the General Manager, Public Works, the Mayor and the Ward Councillor, or their respective designates.

DISCUSSION

An application to commemorate local environmentalist Martha Webber was submitted by the March Rural Community Association. The proposal would name an unnamed trail at Sheila McKee Park as “Martha Webber Trail.”

The Commemorative Naming Committee reviewed the application and endorsed the proposed name under the following criterion:

- *The nominated individual has provided extensive community service, or who have an extraordinary community service record;*

Supporting information about Martha Webber is found in the attached Document 1. Following the initial endorsement of the application, the public consultation process (outlined below) was carried out for the mandated 60-day period. Following the consultation process, the Commemorative Naming Committee reconvened to review all comments received. At its meeting of January 10, 2013, the Commemorative Naming Committee endorsed the naming application and directed staff to forward this recommendation to the Community and Protective Services Committee and City Council.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

The trail in question is located in the rural ward of West Carleton-March (5).

CONSULTATION

An integral part of the Commemorative Naming process is public consultation on the proposed name. The following outlines the consultation undertaken for the Martha Webber Trail.

At its meeting of September 6, 2012, the Commemorative Naming Committee approved a 60-day public consultation on a proposal to name an unnamed trail at Sheila McKee Park as "Martha Webber Trail." The 60-day public consultation began on October 5, 2012 and concluded on December 4, 2012. The public consultation notice was placed on Ottawa.ca/namingottawa and circulated through a Public Service Announcement (including Twitter) October 5, 2012.

By the end of day on December 4, 2012, the City Clerk's Office had received eight (8) responses on this proposal, all of which were supportive.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

Councillor El-Chantiry supports this proposal.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Signage for existing parks is the responsibility of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. There are funds available for signage in this department's 2013 budget.

City Clerk and Solicitor Department

Financial associated with purchasing a plaque, boulder and/or hosting a naming ceremony are provided through the City Clerk's operating budget.

While demand has outpaced resources for several years, the practice has been to accommodate the commemorations within the \$20,000 annual budget and Members of Council and the public are made aware that, once the budget has been spent in any given year, any events will need to carry over into the next year.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

There are no technical implications associated with this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 - Summary of the Martha Webber Trail Proposal

DISPOSITION

Following Council's approval of the Martha Webber Trail commemorative naming proposal, staff will work with the Ward Councillor to coordinate an event to unveil a plaque.

Document 1 - Commemorative Naming Proposal – Martha Webber Trail

Born in New England, Martha majored in Botany-ecology and geology (BS. MS). Martha was staff assistant at the Children's Nature Museum, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Worcester Natural History Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts. She taught biology and earth science in the Vermont Public School system before moving to Dunrobin in the 1980s. Martha volunteered with Scouts and Guides for a few years before offering a spring botany course for the City of Kanata. That field course, called "Edible Wild", continues to attract adults every spring. She has developed a network of fellow ecologists to teach groups of children about their natural environment. In addition to Scouts and Guides, home school children, and children in the formal education systems, "Look and Listen" summer campers have also benefited from her expertise and her unique teaching style. Martha partnered with a colleague for Ottawa Valley Field Trips which they organized primarily for seniors.

Martha is an amazing resource with an understanding and feel for the natural world that is seldom found in our day and age. She is always looking for opportunities to introduce teachers and groups to the heritage plants that our ancestors found here or brought with them to be used for foods and medicines.

Here is a partial list of Martha's activities in 2011-2012:

- Families in Nature is held at the Eco-wellness Centre, in the Carp Hills on the first Sunday of each month, from September to May. Children of all ages are welcome, recognizing that strollers and carriages do not run well on forest trails. Seasonal activities include: building a quinzhee and tracking animals in the snow; tapping a maple tree, making a map of circumpolar constellations showing the spring star Arcturus; using winter-green leaves to make tea; finding and eating ripe wild strawberries. Sessions include survival tips, "project wild" awareness games, and monitoring forest seasons.
- Leading adults, homeschool children, scouts, private and public school groups into the forests at Stony Swamp and South March Conservation Forest.
- Edible Wild: Six classes held annually from late April to the end of May.
- Signs of Springs: A day at Stony Swamp. Families welcome.
- Jane's Walk: May - No registration needed. Rain or Shine. Dress for the weather.
- Look and Listen: Summer camps for children at Andrew Hayden Park.

Martha is a long-standing member of the March Rural Community Association, and has served as a Director for many years. She regularly attends monthly meetings, and participates in discussions and decision-making, and is often the first to volunteer to help. She took many groups down along the rocky shore at Sheila McKee Park to see how special it is: waterfalls in summer, ice formations in winter; miniature evergreen trees, some very old, and growing out of the steep cliffs.

Proposition de nomination commémorative - sentier Martha-Webber

Née en Nouvelle-Angleterre, Martha a fait des études en botanique, en écologie et en géologie (BS, MS). Elle a occupé un poste d'adjointe au Children's Nature Museum de Charlotte, en Caroline du Nord, et au Worcester Natural History Museum, de Worcester, dans le Massachusetts. Elle a enseigné la biologie et les sciences de la Terre dans le réseau d'écoles publiques du Vermont avant de s'installer à Dunrobin dans les années 1980. Martha a fait du bénévolat auprès des scouts et des guides pendant quelques années, avant d'offrir un cours printanier sur la botanique pour la Ville de Kanata. Portant sur les plantes sauvages comestibles, ce cours continue d'attirer des adultes chaque printemps. Martha a constitué un réseau d'écologistes comme elle afin d'initier des groupes d'enfants à leur environnement naturel. Outre des scouts et des guides, des enfants recevant leur enseignement à domicile et des élèves du système d'éducation officiel, les participants aux camps d'été « Look and Listen » bénéficient de son expérience et de son style d'enseignement unique en son genre. De plus, en collaboration avec un collègue, Martha organise des excursions dans la vallée de l'Outaouais, principalement à l'intention des personnes âgées.

Martha est une ressource incroyable. Elle comprend la nature comme peu savent le faire aujourd'hui. Elle est toujours à la recherche d'occasions de présenter à des enseignants et des groupes les plantes que nos ancêtres ont trouvées ici ou qu'ils ont apportées avec eux afin de produire des aliments et des médicaments.

Voici une liste partielle des activités de Martha en 2011-2012 :

- Families & Friends in Nature : programme offert au Carp Ridge EcoWellness Centre, dans les collines de Carp, le premier dimanche du mois, de septembre à mai. Les enfants de tout âge sont les bienvenus, bien que les poussettes ne soient pas très adaptées aux sentiers en forêt. Activités saisonnières : construction d'un quinzy et pistage d'animaux dans la neige; entaille d'un érable; cartographie des constellations circumpolaires montrant l'étoile printanière Arcturus; fabrication d'une tisane à partir de gaulthérie couchée (thé des bois); recherche et dégustation de fraises sauvages mûres. Au programme : trucs de survie; jeux de sensibilisation d'Atout-Faune; suivi des saisons en forêt.
- Accompagnement d'adultes, d'enfants recevant un enseignement à domicile, de scouts et de guides, et de groupes venant d'écoles publiques ou privées dans les forêts de Stony Swamp et dans la forêt protégée des hautes terres de South March.
- Edible Wild : six séances par année entre la fin d'avril et la fin de mai.
- Signs of Springs : journée à Stony Swamp. Les familles sont les bienvenues.
- Jane's Walk : Mai – inscription non requise. L'activité a lieu peu importe les conditions météorologiques. Porter des vêtements appropriés.
- Look and Listen : camps d'été à l'intention des enfants, au parc Andrew-Hayden.

Martha fait depuis longtemps partie de la March Rural Community Association, dont elle a été administratrice pendant plusieurs années. Elle assiste fréquemment aux réunions mensuelles, participe aux discussions et à la prise de décisions, et est souvent la première personne à se porter volontaire. Elle a emmené de nombreux groupes le long de la rive rocheuse du parc Sheila-McKee, où l'on peut admirer des chutes en été, des

formations de glace en hiver, et des conifères miniatures, dont certains sont très vieux, accrochés aux falaises.