

**Report to
Rapport au:**

**Community and Protective Services Committee
Comité des services communautaires et de protection
19 April 2018 / 19 avril 2018**

**and Council
et au Conseil
25 April 2018 / 25 avril 2018**

**Submitted on April 12, 2018
Soumis le 12 avril 2018**

**Submitted by
Soumis par:**

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**Ward: RIDEAU-ROCKLIFFE (13) /
RIDEAU-ROCKLIFFE (13)**

File Number: ACS2018-CCS-GEN-0012

SUBJECT: Commemorative Naming Proposal – Helen Redpath Thomson Park

OBJET: Proposition de nom commémoratif – parc Helen-Redpath-Thomson

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

**That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council
approve the proposal to name Cummings Park, located at 861 Cummings Avenue,
“Helen Redpath Thomson Park”.**

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection recommande au Conseil d'approuver la proposition visant à nommer le parc Cummings, situé au 861, avenue Cummings « parc Helen-Redpath-Thomson ».

BACKGROUND

The Commemorative Naming Policy, approved by City Council on July 24, 2002, as amended, 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 who 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 through a formal Commemorative Naming application and supporting material.

Staff review the name against other criteria (e.g. potential issues for 9-1-1, whether there is an existing commemoration for the same nomination, etc.) and if there are no

issues of this nature, forwards the nomination to the Commemorative Naming Committee (“CNC”), consisting of the City Clerk and Solicitor, the General Manager, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, the General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services, the General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services, the Mayor and the Ward Councillor or their respective designates; the CNC reviews the formal application.

As part of the process, the CNC 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 30-day public consultation phase. Where the proposal is to rename a park or facility, the Policy requires a 60-day public consultation phase.

Following the consultation process, the CNC reviews the public feedback and makes a final recommendation on the nomination, which is subsequently considered by the appropriate Standing Committee and City Council. In cases where no public objections are received, proposals are brought directly to the appropriate Standing Committee and Council without the need for a second CNC meeting.

DISCUSSION

On behalf of a local resident and amateur community historian, Councillor Tobi Nussbaum submitted an application to commemorate Helen Redpath Thompson, as described in Document 1. Under the proposal, Cummings Park would be named “Helen Redpath Thomson Park”.

The CNC met on January 31, 2018 to review the application and endorsed the proposed name under the following criterion:

- The nominated name has historical significance to the community, City of Ottawa, Province of Ontario or Canada.

The CNC reconvened on March 28, 2018 to review the public feedback and make a final recommendation on the nomination.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no rural implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

An integral part of the Commemorative Naming Process is public consultation on the proposed name. On February 1, 2018, the City announced a 30-day public consultation on the proposed name. The relevant information was communicated through a public service announcement, the City of Ottawa Twitter accounts and posted to Ottawa.ca.

The 30-day public consultation period ended on March 2, 2018. The City Clerk and Solicitor's Office received one comment in support of the application and one comment in opposition.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR(S)

The Ward Councillor is supportive of this recommendation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Office of the City Clerk and Solicitor

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

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts related to the recommendation in this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Not applicable.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 – Summary of Proposal: Helen Redpath Thomson Park (Ward 13 - Rideau-Rockcliffe)

DISPOSITION

Following Council approval of the proposal, staff will work with the Ward Councillor to coordinate a ceremonial event to unveil a plaque.

Document 1

Helen Redpath Thomson Park (Ward 13 - Rideau-Rockcliffe)

In recognition of the historical significance of Helen Redpath Thomson to the surrounding community, the City of Ottawa has been asked to rename Cummings Park, at 861 Cummings Ave., the “Helen Redpath Thomson Park”.

Born in Scotland in 1808, Helen Redpath and her family immigrated to Quebec to join her father Robert and uncle John, skilled masons who settled in Canada in 1816 to work on the construction of new canals. Helen’s uncle John helped to build the Rideau Canal locks and developed a business relationship with Thomas Mackay, one of the founders of the City of Ottawa.

In 1861, John gifted land to Helen Redpath Thomson. Contrary to the custom at the time, John Redpath did not pass on the land to Helen's husband, but directly to "Helen, her heirs and assigns". She and her husband David raised eight children on the farmland in the vicinity of this new park.