



Planning, Building and By-law Services

Prepared for: Regular Council

Report: PBBS-40-2026

Meeting Date: August 10, 2026

1. Title

Park Name Proposal for 3440 Thunder Bay Road

2. Recommendations

That: Council approves the proposed name “Earl Plato Park” for the neighbourhood park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road; and further

That: Staff review the terms and requirements of the Park Naming Policy in 2027.

That: Council direct Staff to submit the necessary by-law

3. Relation to Council’s Corporate Strategic Plan

Priority: Quality of life and community well-being

4. List of Stakeholders

- Residents and property owners in the Town of Fort Erie

5. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide additional background information for the proposed park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road and provide alternative park names as directed in the Council meeting on July 7, 2025.

6. Analysis

Background

On July 7, 2025, Council provided direction that Report [PBBS-54-2025](#) as outlined in **Appendix 1**, “Be deferred to the September 8, 2025, Council-in-Committee Meeting to permit considerations of possible cultural or historical name options and consult with Museum services.”

As such, Planning and Museum Services staff have reviewed the cultural and historical context of the park site. Museum Services has provided the following information to support the naming of the park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road:

Interpreting history where it happened is a standard within the *Park Naming Policy (2021)*; *Guidelines for Installation of Interpretive Pieces on Municipal Properties (2013)*, *Fort Erie's Heritage Framework (2013)*, and *History Happened Here pilot program (2021)*. Of the three options provided below for a potential name for the park at 3440 Thunder Bay Road, two - Thunder Bay Park and Claus Farm Park - have a direct historical and cultural connection to the site. The third option, Haun Farm Park, was suggested by the Heritage Committee but does not have a direct historical or cultural significance to this specific location.

Thunder Bay Park

This name celebrates the community of Thunder Bay which was previously part of Bertie Township. While Thunder Bay appears on maps, Voter's Lists, and Directories and Gazetteers, no current signage exists to delineate this distinct community. The layered history of Thunder Bay includes developments such as North Shore Acres and Sunrise Point, along with designated built heritage features, community associations, and recreational facilities that together define the character of the neighbourhood.

Over time, the names of some of the smaller communities within Bertie Township have fallen from use due to generational change and influx of new residents. Preserving the name Thunder Bay would ensure the continuation of that identity and recognition that Fort Erie is a community of communities.

In the late 1900s and early 2000s, the subject lands were developed and run as a community recreational area (Thunder Bay Golf and Beach Park and later Ridgeway Shores Golf Course) shown in **Appendix 2**. The decades of social and recreational history that happened here can be celebrated with the new recreational spaces within this park.

Claus Farm Park

In 1862, the Claus farm encompassed most of Thunder Bay. Jacob Claus emigrated from Germany and purchased 400 acres of land here. The Claus family sold produce to residents; harvested ice in the winter and stored it in sawdust so that it could be sold to neighbours in the summer; and built a windmill on the lake. The property where the park will be located would have been farmland. The homestead, barn, etc. still exist and are located on the west side of Prospect Point Road, south of Ridgeway-by-the-Lake.

Haun Farm Park

There is no direct connection to the Haun family or their farm at this location. Approximately 1 km from this site, is the Haun-Lawson house, which is located on the shore of Lake Erie. This house was designated a historic site in 2024. The house has connections to the War of 1812

and to United Empire Loyalists. The Haun property did not include the land for the proposed park.

Further research by the Town's Law Clerk revealed that other people and families have owned this property over the years (five property owners before the Town in total).

Based on the internal review with Museum Services and public engagement, staff are recommending the name "Thunder Bay Park" to denote its affiliation with the Thunder Bay neighbourhood and Thunder Bay Golf and Beach Park in accordance with Section 4 of the Park Naming Policy "Historic or Cultural and Geographic" connection to the site and surrounding neighbourhood.

Butler's Rangers Park

In September 2025, Town staff were requested to examine the proposed name "Butler's Rangers Park" and to undertake additional community engagement. Planning staff worked with Museum Services staff to review and assess the historical context associated with the name "Butler's Rangers.

Butler's Rangers were active from 1776 to 1783 during the American Revolutionary War and are recognized in Niagara due to the settlement of United Empire Loyalists following the conflict. While some descendants later participated in the War of 1812, the two wars were separate events occurring decades apart.

Based on a review of the historical ownership of the lands at 3440 Thunder Bay Road, there is no identified evidence that the property was owned or used by members of Butler's Rangers. Naming the park "Butler's Rangers Park" would reflect the broader historical significance of the Rangers in the region rather than a confirmed site-specific connection.

The Park does meet geographic context as the park is located adjacent to Butler's Drive, which references Butler's Rangers. Historical records indicate that Butler's Rangers operated primarily closer to Old Fort Erie during the American Revolutionary War.

Earl Plato Park

On May 5, 2026, members of Council suggested the name Earl Plato Park in recognition of Earl Plato's contributions to the Town of Fort Erie.

Earl Plato was a historian, educator, author, and naturalist who made significant contributions to local history, environmental education, and conservation within the Fort Erie and Ridgeway communities. He regularly led guided tours of Marcy's Woods, providing educational programs on the Carolinian forest and its natural features, as shown in **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 4**.

Mr. Plato was a founding member of both the Bert Miller Nature Club and the Bertie Historical Society and received lifetime achievement awards recognizing his contributions to local history and nature education. He also authored numerous books and newspaper articles documenting the history and natural heritage of the Fort Erie area.

7. Financial, Staffing and Accessibility (AODA) Implications

Should Council approve the name “Earl Plato Park” for the park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road, Staff will then proceed with costing and ordering of the sign that would be absorbed into the park construction schedule for 2026 as outlined in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and the 2026 forecasted Capital Budget.

8. Policies Affecting Proposal

Town of Fort Erie Park Naming Policy

The proposed name, Earl Plato Park, was evaluated against the criteria set out in Section 4 of the Town's Park Naming Policy. Staff have determined that the proposed name is consistent with the Naming Principles outlined in Section 4.1 and satisfies the majority of the Naming Criteria under Section 4.2.3 – *Prominent Individuals or Organizations*.

The proposed name does not fully satisfy Section 4.2.3(d)(ii) of the Park Naming Policy, which states that *"a direct relationship or association must exist between the individual or organization and the park being considered."* While Earl Plato made significant contributions to the Town of Fort Erie through his work as a historian, educator, author, and naturalist, he did not have a direct association with the park site or the historic community of Thunder Bay. In addition, the park is not intended to function as a nature park but will include a pollinator garden.

Notwithstanding this criterion, the proposed name is consistent with the intent of the Park Naming Policy by recognizing an individual whose contributions have had a lasting impact on the Town of Fort Erie. The proposed name also complies with the community consultation requirements outlined in Section 6.3 of the Park Naming Policy.

9. Comments from Departments, Community and Corporate Partners

Public Comments:

Consistent with the policies outlined in Section 6.3 of the Park Naming Policy, the first round of community consultation started on March 31st, 2025 and was completed by April 30th, 2025. The public has been notified through the following:

- Let's Talk Fort Erie page on the Town's website on March 25th, 2025
- Town's social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter on April 1st, 2025

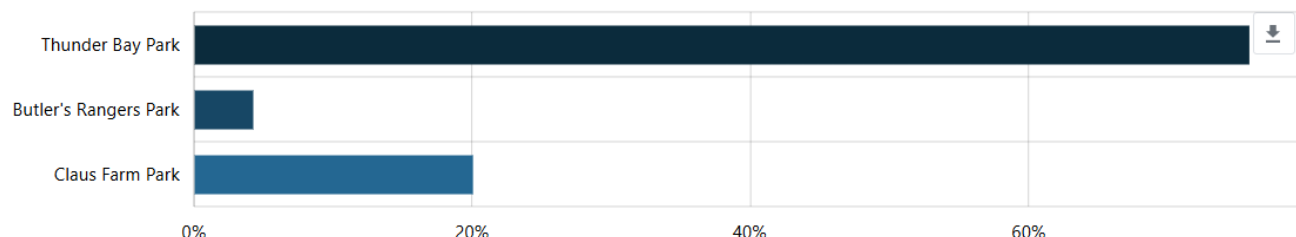
Town Staff received a total of eight relevant comments and suggestions through the consultation process. Of these, three submissions expressed support for the name Thunder Bay Park, while three others proposed alternative variations incorporating the name Thunder Bay.

One submission suggested the name *Oaks Park*; however, Section 4.1.a of the Town's Naming Principles states that “Names shall be unique; name duplication and similar names shall be avoided.” As there is already an existing municipal park named *Oaks Park*, this suggestion does not meet the criteria set out in the Park Naming Policy.

In the spirit of ongoing meaningful consultation, the option of Butler's Rangers Park, second round public to consider for the new Park Name commenced on March 5, 2026, and concluded on March 27, 2026. The public was notified through the following methods:

- Let's Talk Fort Erie page on the Town's website on March 5th, 2026
- Town's social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter on March 7th, 2026

Town Staff received a total of 96 votes 95 of them via the Let's Talk Fort Erie Website and 1 email expressing their vote for Indigenous name. (see below the results of the online survey).



Answer Choices	Percent	Count
Thunder Bay Park	75.79%	72
Butler's Rangers Park	4.21%	4
Claus Farm Park	20.00%	19
Total	100.00%	95

Following the suggestion to consider Earl Plato Park as the proposed name, a third round of community engagement was undertaken from June 10, 2026, to July 13, 2026. The public was notified through the following methods:

- Let's Talk Fort Erie page on the Town's website on June 11th, 2026
- Town's social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter on June 11th, 2026

The public was invited to provide comments on the proposed park name for the future park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road through the Town's Let's Talk Fort Erie page. During the consultation period, the Town received a total of nine submissions. Of these, five submissions supported the proposed name, or a variation of Earl Plato Park, one submission expressed neither support nor opposition to the proposed name, and three submissions opposed the proposed name.

Town staff contacted four of Earl Plato's descendants to seek their input on the proposed park name. The family members that responded expressed their support for the proposal.

10. Alternatives

Thunder Bay Park

Through the community engagement process, members of the public expressed a preference for a shorter park name. Thunder Bay Park was well received, garnered broad support, and reflects the name currently used by residents within the surrounding community to identify the park.

The proposed name also has direct historical ties to the site. In the late 1900s and early 2000s, the subject lands operated as a community recreational area known as Thunder Bay Golf and Beach Park.

The proposed name, Thunder Bay Park, is supported by the Museum and Cultural Services Department and complies with all applicable requirements of the Town's Park Naming Policy.

11. Communicating Results

Prior to the commencement of park construction, a project sign will be installed on the subject lands, along with a notice provided to residents within close proximity to the park. The notice will include information regarding the park location, park name, and construction details. Two permanent park signs will be installed at the two primary park entrances.

12. Conclusion

Planning Staff recommend that Council approve the proposed name “Earl Plato Park” for the neighbourhood park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road and direct Staff to proceed with preparing the necessary by-law.

The new park will provide the surrounding community with amenities that support both active recreation and passive opportunities for gathering, relaxation, and community use.

13. Report Approval

Reviewed by:

Edward Terry, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Policy and Community Planning

Submitted by:

Anamika Dilwaria, M.P.L, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning, Building and By-Law Services

Approved by:

Chris McQueen, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer

14. Attachments

Appendix 1 – Report PBBS-54-2025

Appendix 2 – Thunder Bay Golf & Beach Park Flyer

Appendix 3 – Earl Plato Article 1

Appendix 4 – Earl Plato Article 2



Planning, Building and By-law Services

Prepared for: Council-in-Committee

Report: PBBS-54-2025

Meeting Date: July 7, 2025

1. Title

Park Name Proposal for 3440 Thunder Bay Road

2. Recommendations

That: Council approves the proposed name “Thunder Bay Park” for the neighbourhood park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road; and further

That: Council direct Staff to submit the necessary by-law.

3. Relation to Council’s Corporate Strategic Plan

Priority: Quality of life and community well-being

4. List of Stakeholders

- Residents and property Owners in the Town of Fort Erie

5. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the background information regarding the naming of the park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road, and to seek Council’s direction on the adoption of the proposed park name.

6. Analysis

Background

The existing neighbourhood park is located on the north side of Thunder Bay Road in the Ridgeway-Thunder Bay neighbourhood as shown in **Appendix 1**. The parkland identified as Part 1 on the 59R-15269 – Parkland Dedication Survey **Appendix 2** was given to the Town of Fort Erie from Ridgeway Shores Golf Club limited as part of a parkland dedication. The parkland was assumed by By-Law 21- 2015 on February 9th 2015.

Currently the park does not have a formal name. Park design is scheduled for 2025 and construction for the park will commence in 2026 as outlined in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and identified as RIDG22 Ridgeway Shores Park Development in the 2025 Capital Budget. On March 25th Town Staff proposed the name for the park located at 3440 Thunder Bay

Road “Thunder Bay Road Park” to align with Section 4.2.1 Geographic as stated in the Park Naming Policy **Appendix 3**.

Naming Principles

When a Town park is named or renamed, the following principles shall be applied:

- a) Names shall be unique; name duplication and similar sounding names shall be avoided;
- b) Names shall have a unique origin. Names shall not recognize an individual, organization, or historic or geographic feature that has already been recognized through the naming of another Town park;
- c) Names shall portray a strong positive image of the Town, give a sense of place, continuity and belonging, and celebrate the distinguishing characteristics and uniqueness of the Town;
- d) The rationale associated with the selection of a particular name shall be understandable and justifiable to Town residents;
- e) Names shall not:
 - a. be political in nature;
 - b. be or be perceived as discriminatory or derogatory of race, colour, ethnic origin, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, creed, disability, or other social factors;
 - c. result in inappropriate abbreviations or acronyms;
 - d. unduly detract from the character or integrity of the community or the aesthetic quality of the property;
 - e. impair the ability of First Responders to respond to emergencies.
- f) Names shall be consistent with any other applicable Town policies and standards;
- g) In instances where multiple names have been submitted for a single park, multiple applications shall be processed and submitted for Council consideration;
- h) Notwithstanding any provisions contained in this policy, Council may change a park name;
- i) Town parks that have been named or renamed in the previous twenty (20) years shall not be renamed;
- j) Unless identified as desirable or directed by Council, the renaming of an existing park shall bear a higher threshold of significance, relevance and necessity. To this end, the renaming of an existing park shall require the applicant to identify and ensure the support of those involved in the original park naming and development;
- k) Park signage shall be consistent with the Town’s wayfinding standards. Any additional signage requested by an applicant will be considered through a separate process, pursuant to the Town of Fort Erie Guidelines for the Installation of Interpretive Pieces on Municipal Property (2014).

Naming Criteria

The Town has three (3) accepted categories for the naming and renaming of Town parks, being: 1) Geographic, 2) Historic or Cultural, and 3) Prominent Individuals or Organizations. These categories are listed below and are explained for further clarification:

Geographic- A name having direct geographical significance or affiliation with the park, which may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) a neighbourhood, community or subdivision
- b) an adjacent street
- c) a noteworthy physical, environmental, ecological or scenic feature, quality or characteristic
- d) proximity to a recognizable facility or area

Historic or Cultural – A name having direct historical or cultural significance or affiliation to the park, which may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) a local, provincial or national historical or heritage event
- b) a reference that is of cultural importance or significance

Prominent Individuals or Organizations – The name of a Fort Erie resident (living or posthumous) or organization that has direct significance or affiliation to the park, which may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a) individuals or families having a historical connection to the site (such as a previous landowner or land donor)
- b) individuals or organizations having made a significant contribution to the local community or Town
- c) individuals or organizations who have made an outstanding contribution provincially, nationally, or internationally
- d) In cases where names are affiliated with individuals or organizations, the following criteria must be met:
 - a. The contributions of the individual or organization must be well-documented and broadly acknowledged within the community;
 - b. A direct relationship or association must exist between the individual or organization and the park being considered;
 - c. The reputation of the individual or organization must be honorable and beyond reproach to be considered for naming or renaming;
 - d. In the case of an individual being an elected official or civil servant, he/she must be retired from public service or deceased;
 - e. Written permission shall be obtained from the individual or organization for such naming or renaming;
 - f. If the individual is deceased, written permission shall be obtained from the next of kin or legal representative for such naming or renaming;
 - g. If permission from the individual or organization cannot be obtained, the Town may approve the name if the applicant is able to demonstrate reasonable documented efforts to obtain consent to the satisfaction of the Town.

The park has not received a formal name. Following internal review and public engagement, staff are recommending the name “Thunder Bay Park” to denote its affiliation with Thunder Bay Road and the Thunder Bay neighbourhood in accordance with Section 4 subsection “Geographic” connection to the surrounding neighbourhood.

7. Financial, Staffing and Accessibility (AODA) Implications

Should Council approve the name “Thunder Bay Park” for the park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road, Staff will then proceed as the ordering and cost of the sign would be absorbed into the park construction scheduled for 2026 as outlined in the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and the 2026 forecasted Capital Budget.

8. Policies Affecting Proposal

Town of Fort Erie Park Naming. The proposed park name was evaluated based on Section 4 of the Park Naming Policy as outlined above. Staff have also followed the Community Consultation policies outlined above in Section 6.3 of the Park Naming Policy.

9. Comments from Departments, Community and Corporate Partners

Public Comments:

Consistent with the policies outlined in Section 6.3 of the Park Naming Policy community consultation started March 31st, 2025 and completed April 30th, 2025. The public was notified through the following:

- Let’s Talk Fort Erie page on the Town’s website on March 25th, 2025
- Town’s social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter on April 1st, 2025

Town Staff initially proposed the name “Thunder Bay Road Park.” However, during the community engagement process, members of the public expressed a preference for a shorter name. The name “Thunder Bay Park” was well received and garnered broad support. As a result, and in consideration of community input, Town Staff recommend the official naming of the park as “Thunder Bay Park.”

10. Alternatives

Council may choose to reject the proposed name. However, this is not advisable as there are many geographic references to the surround geography.

11. Communicating Results

N/A

12. Conclusion

Planning Staff recommend that Council approve the proposed name “Thunder Bay Park” for the neighbourhood park located at 3440 Thunder Bay Road and direct Staff to proceed with preparing the necessary by-law. This new park space will provide the surrounding neighbourhood with amenities that support both active recreation and passive opportunities for gathering and relaxation. The name ‘Thunder Bay Park’ reflects the community context and character of the neighbourhood.

13. Report Approval

Prepared by:
Elizabeth Latif, BEDP
Project Manager/ Parks Planner

Reviewed by:
Edward Terry, MCIP, RPP
Manager, Policy and Community Planning

Submitted by:
Anamika Dilwaria, M.P.L, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development Services

Approved by:
Chris McQueen, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer

14. Attachments

Appendix 1 – Location Map
Appendix 2 – 59R-15269 – Parkland Dedication Survey
Appendix 3 – Town of Fort Erie Park Naming Policy



0 20 40 80 Meters

LOCATION MAP

Park Naming Application



Subject Land - 3440 Thunder Bay Road, Fort Erie

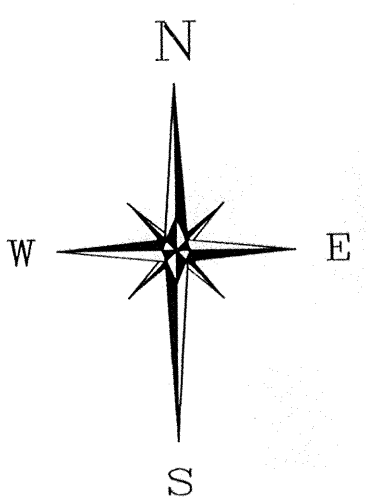
CONNECTION DRIVE

PROSPECT POINT ROAD
ROAD ALLOWANCE BETWEEN LOTS 22 AND 23, CONCESSION LAKE ERIE

TOWNSHIP

PLAN OF SURVEY OF
PART OF LOT 21, CONCESSION 1 LAKE ERIE
GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF BERTIE, NOW IN THE
TOWN OF FORT ERIE
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

SCALE 1:1000
WILLIAM A. MASCOE
ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR



CONCESSION 1
P.I.N.
R 0 3 5 5 2 2 7
OF
64189 (SECONDLY)

THUNDER BAY ROAD
ROAD ALLOWANCE BETWEEN BROKEN FRONT CONCESSION LAKE ERIE AND CONCESSION 1 LAKE ERIE, TOWNSHIP OF BERTIE

SCHEDULE					
PART	LOT	CONCESSION	TOWNSHIP	P.I.N.	AREA
1	PART OF LOT 21	CONCESSION 1, LAKE ERIE	BERTIE	PART OF 64189-0008(LT)	12683 M ²

INTEGRATION DATA

OBSERVED REFERENCE POINTS (ORPs): 6' UTM ZONE 17, NAD83 (CSRS) (1997.0).		
COORDINATE VALUES ARE TO URBAN ACCURACY PER SEC. 14 (2) OF ONTARIO REGULATION 216/10.		
ORP	NORTHING	EASTING
Ⓒ	4748872.45	659925.33
Ⓓ	4749200.46	659336.25
COORDINATES CANNOT, IN THEMSELVES, BE USED TO RE-ESTABLISH CORNERS OR BOUNDARIES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN.		

BEARING NOTE

BEARINGS ARE GRID, DERIVED FROM GPS OBSERVATIONS ON OBSERVED REFERENCE POINTS C AND D USING THE CAN-NET VRS NETWORK AND ARE REFERRED TO THE CENTRAL MERIDIAN OF UTM ZONE 17 (81° WEST LONGITUDE) NAD 83 (CSRS) (1997.0).

I REQUIRE THIS PLAN TO BE DEPOSITED UNDER THE LAND TITLES ACT.
DECEMBER 22, 2014
DATE
WILLIAM A. MASCOE
ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR

PLAN 59R-15269
RECEIVED AND DEPOSITED
December 24, 2014
DATE
W. Stephenson
REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LAND REGISTRAR FOR THE LAND TITLES DIVISION OF NIAGARA SOUTH (No.59)

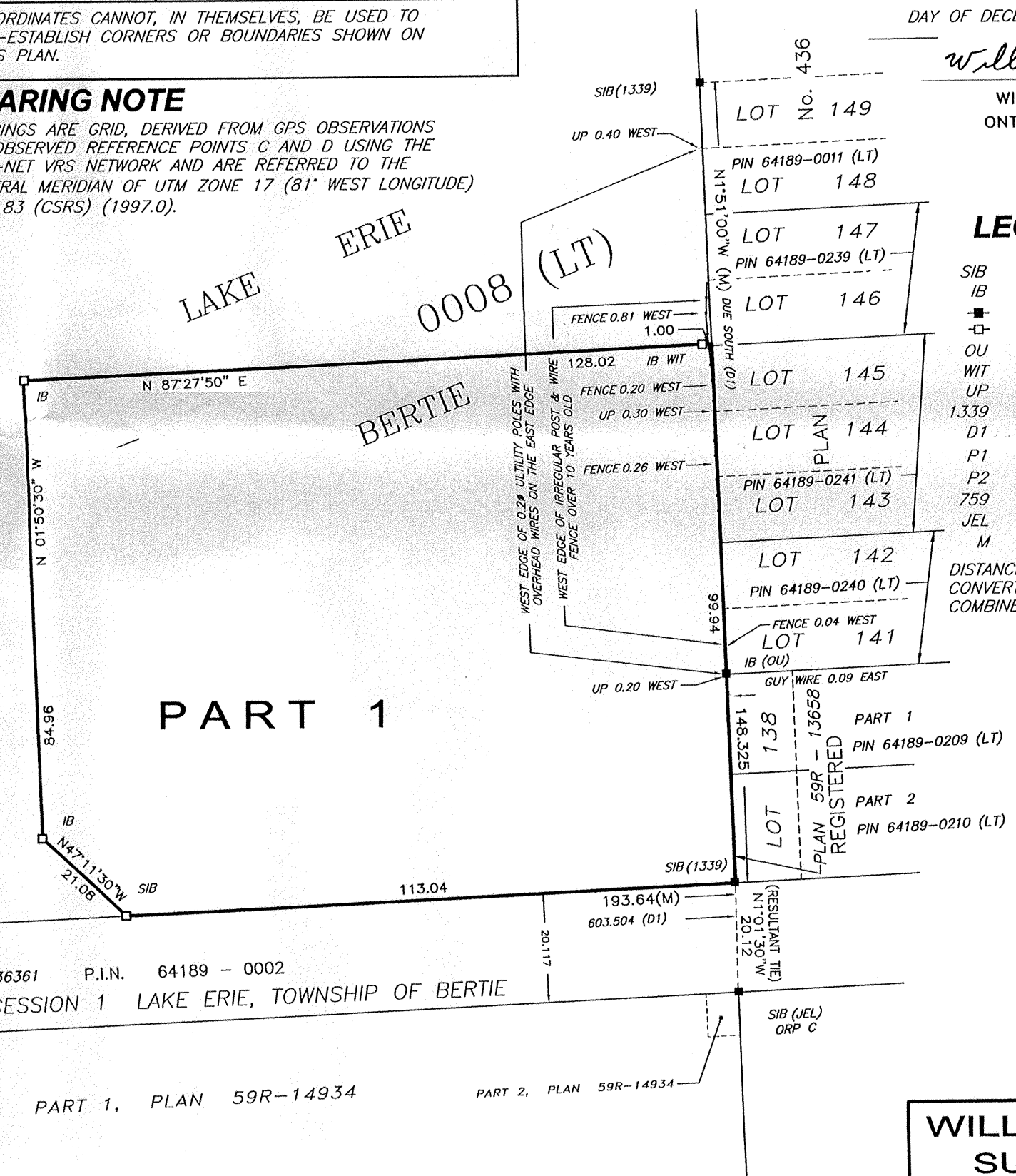
SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

I CERTIFY THAT:
1. THIS SURVEY AND PLAN ARE CORRECT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SURVEYS ACT, THE SURVEYORS ACT, THE LAND TITLES ACT AND THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THEM.
2. THE SURVEY WAS COMPLETED ON THE 22ND DAY OF DECEMBER, 2014

WILLIAM A. MASCOE
ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR

LEGEND & NOTES

SIB DENOTES STANDARD IRON BAR
IB DENOTES IRON BAR
■ DENOTES SURVEY MONUMENT FOUND
□ DENOTES SURVEY MONUMENT SET
OU DENOTES ORIGIN UNKNOWN
WIT DENOTES WITNESS
UP DENOTES UTILITY POLE
1339 DENOTES W.A. MASCOE O.L.S.
D1 DENOTES R0355227(SECONDLY)
P1 DENOTES PLAN 59R-12039
P2 DENOTES PLAN 59R-11041
759 DENOTES C. J. CLARKE, O.L.S.
JEL DENOTES J. E. LANTHIER, O.L.S.
M DENOTES MEASURED
DISTANCES ARE GROUND AND CAN BE CONVERTED TO GRID BY MULTIPLYING BY THE COMBINED SCALE FACTOR OR 0.99989.



PART 1, PLAN 59R-14934

PART 2, PLAN 59R-14934

WILLIAM A. MASCOE
SURVEYING LTD.
49 EASTCHESTER AV.
ST.CATHARINES, ONTARIO
PHONE:905-641-1007 FAX:905-641-4424
EMAIL: WILLIAM@MASCOESURVEYING.COM
DATE: DECEMBER 22, 2014 FILE : 10272

METRIC

DISTANCES and COORDINATES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE IN METRES AND CAN BE CONVERTED TO FEET BY DIVIDING BY 0.3048

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

PARK NAMING POLICY

SECTION 1.0 – INTRODUCTION

Town parks are an important part of the community fabric and their names contribute to creating a sense of place, community and identity within the Town of Fort Erie. A park name can reflect and acknowledge its unique location, history, geography, environment and/or neighbourhood. Park names should be considered and selected with care, and park naming and renaming should be subject to an established process and set of criteria and principles. This policy establishes the criteria, principles and processes by which Council may consider the naming and renaming of Town parks in a transparent, equitable and efficient manner.

SECTION 2.0 – PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish a clear process for the naming and renaming of Town parks that is transparent, efficient and equitable, and which encourages public participation; and
- Establish criteria and principles to assess the appropriateness of a name and to ensure that names are consistent with the identity, values, and character of the Town of Fort Erie and the area or neighbourhood served.

SECTION 3.0 – DEFINITIONS

3.1 “Commemorative Name” means a name that commemorates an individual, individuals, family or organization;

3.2 “Naming” means officially dedicating a name to a Town park;

3.3 “Park” means any lands owned or under the care and control of the Town, designated as Neighbourhood, Community or Specialized parks pursuant to the Parks and Open Space Master Plan, as amended or replaced, and waterfront parks and windows;

3.4 “Renaming” means officially changing the existing name of a Town park and dedicating a new name;

3.5 “Town” means The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie.

SECTION 4.0 – NAMING PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

4.1 Naming Principles

When a Town park is named or renamed, the following principles shall be applied:

- a) Names shall be unique; name duplication and similar sounding names shall be avoided;
- b) Names shall have a unique origin. Names shall not recognize an individual, organization, or historic or geographic feature that has already been recognized through the naming of another Town park;
- c) Names shall portray a strong positive image of the Town, give a sense of place, continuity and belonging, and celebrate the distinguishing characteristics and uniqueness of the Town;
- d) The rationale associated with the selection of a particular name shall be understandable and justifiable to Town residents;
- e) Names shall not:
 - a. be political in nature;
 - b. be or be perceived as discriminatory or derogatory of race, colour, ethnic origin, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, creed, disability or other social factors;
 - c. result in inappropriate abbreviations or acronyms;
 - d. unduly detract from the character or integrity of the community or the aesthetic quality of the property;
 - e. impair the ability of First Responders to respond to emergencies.
- f) Names shall be consistent with any other applicable Town policies and standards;
- g) In instances where multiple names have been submitted for a single park, multiple applications shall be processed and submitted for Council consideration;
- h) Notwithstanding any provisions contained in this policy, Council may change a park name;
- i) Town parks that have been named or renamed in the previous twenty (20) years shall not be renamed;

- j) Unless identified as desirable or directed by Council, the renaming of an existing park shall bear a higher threshold of significance, relevance and necessity. To this end, the renaming of an existing park shall require the applicant to identify and ensure the support of those involved in the original park naming and development;
- k) Park signage shall be consistent with the Town's wayfinding standards. Any additional signage requested by an applicant will be considered through a separate process, pursuant to the Town of Fort Erie Guidelines for the Installation of Interpretive Pieces on Municipal Property (2014).

4.2 Naming Criteria

The Town has three (3) accepted categories of names for the naming and renaming of Town parks, being: 1) Geographic, 2) Historic or Cultural, and 3) Prominent Individuals or Organizations. These categories are listed below and are explained for further clarification:

4.2.1 Geographic – A name having direct geographical significance or affiliation with the park, which may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. a neighbourhood, community or subdivision
- b. an adjacent street
- c. a noteworthy physical, environmental, ecological or scenic feature, quality or characteristic
- d. proximity to a recognizable facility or area

Local examples include Crystal Ridge Park, Shagbark Nature Park and Bowen Road Park

4.2.2 Historic or Cultural – A name having direct historical or cultural significance or affiliation to the park, which may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. a local, provincial or national historical or heritage event
- b. a reference that is of cultural importance or significance

Local examples include Ridgeway Battlefield Park and United Empire Loyalist Park

4.2.3 Prominent Individuals or Organizations – The name of a Fort Erie resident (living or posthumous) or organization that has direct significance or affiliation to the park, which may include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. individuals or families having a historical connection to the site (such as a previous landowner or land donor)
- b. individuals or organizations having made a significant contribution to the local community or Town

- c. individuals or organizations who have made an outstanding contribution provincially, nationally, or internationally

Local examples include Madelaine Faiazza Memorial Park and Ridgeway Lions Park

- d. In cases where names are affiliated with individuals or organizations, the following criteria must be met:
 - i. The contributions of the individual or organization must be well-documented and broadly acknowledged within the community;
 - ii. A direct relationship or association must exist between the individual or organization and the park being considered;
 - iii. The reputation of the individual or organization must be honorable and beyond reproach to be considered for naming or renaming;
 - iv. In the case of an individual being an elected official or civil servant, he/she must be retired from public service or deceased;
 - v. Written permission shall be obtained from the individual or organization for such naming or renaming;
 - vi. If the individual is deceased, written permission shall be obtained from the next of kin or legal representative for such naming or renaming; and
 - vii. If permission from the individual or organization cannot be obtained, the Town may approve the name if the applicant is able to demonstrate reasonable documented efforts to obtain consent to the satisfaction of the Town.

In cases where applications do not meet the criteria set out in Section 4, an applicant may be referred to the Town's Memorial Bench and Memorial Tree programs as alternative methods of commemoration.

SECTION 5.0 – TOWN PARK NAMING PROCESS

The naming of Town parks may be initiated in two (2) ways: by members of the public, or by Town staff and Council.

5.1 Application Submission

All applicants shall submit a completed **Town of Fort Erie Park Naming Application Form** to Planning and Development Services, providing sufficient information and evidence as to how the proposed name satisfies the Naming Principles and Criteria of this policy. An application will be considered complete if the following information is submitted:

- a. A rationale for the naming request, which addresses the Naming Criteria and Principles of this policy;
- b. Documentation that substantiates the rationale (eg. copies of newspaper articles, certificates, awards, services records, pictures, maps, excerpts from books or articles, historical documents, research articles or documents, etc.)

If the applicant is proposing to name a park after an individual or organization, the following information is also required to be provided by the applicant:

- c. Background information and/or biographical information demonstrating that the proposed name is of significance to the community and/or the Town and is directly linked to the park; and
- d. A letter addressed to the Town from the individual or organization being honoured, or in the event that the individual is deceased or the organization no longer exists, from their next of kin or legal representative, or past members of the organization, granting permission to name the park.

5.2 Application Review

Each application for naming shall undergo a process wherein staff will review the application for conformity to this policy and will circulate the application to relevant stakeholders for review and comment on the suitability of the application. Fort Erie Museum Services staff are the expert resource and authority relative to the historical accuracy and appropriateness of a proposed name.

The duration of the review process will be dictated by the nature of the naming application.

5.3 Community Consultation

Community members shall be informed of all naming requests by way of notification in the newspaper, on the Town website, and through social media.

Following notification, members of the public will have thirty (30) calendar days to provide comments relative to the proposed name.

Information relative to park naming requests will be provided through the Town's online public engagement platforms, through which members of the public may provide input. Comments may also be provided directly to Town staff.

5.4 Costs

a) Park Naming Initiated by the Town

The costs associated with park naming, including but not limited to Town wayfinding signage, administrative, ceremonial, and legal costs, shall be the responsibility of the Town.

b) Park Naming Requests Initiated by Members of the Public

The Town shall bear administrative and Town wayfinding signage costs. All other associated costs shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

SECTION 6.0 – TOWN PARK RENAMING PROCESS

The renaming of Town parks may be initiated in two (2) ways: by members of the public, or by Town staff and Council.

The renaming of Town parks carries with it a much greater impact in comparison to inception naming. The tradition, continuity and identification of names are imbedded in the community and tied to important community values. Consideration of a park renaming request carries a higher threshold of significance, relevance and necessity.

An application for park renaming must meet the criteria and principles of this policy, provide valid justification for replacing the existing name, and demonstrate consultation with the community and those originally involved in the naming and development of the park.

Town parks that have been named or renamed in the past twenty (20) years will not be considered for renaming. Critical examination will be conducted to ensure that renaming the park will not diminish the original justification for the name or the prior contributors.

Existing names shall not be changed without the consideration of:

- a. the historical and cultural significance of the existing name;
- b. the impact on the individual or organization associated with the existing name;
- c. the cost and impact of changing existing signage, rebuilding community recognition and updating records (databases, maps, promotional materials, legal documents, website, etc.);
- d. the level of community and stakeholder support; and
- e. the best interest of the community.

6.1 Application Submission

All applicants shall submit a completed **Town of Fort Erie Park Naming Application Form** to Planning and Development Services, providing sufficient information and evidence as to how the proposed name satisfies the Naming Principles and Criteria of this policy. An application will be considered complete if the following is submitted:

- a. A rationale for the renaming request, which addresses the Naming Criteria and Principles of this policy;
- b. Documentation that substantiates the rationale (eg. copies of newspaper articles, certificates, awards, services records, pictures, maps, excerpts from books or articles, historical documents, research articles or documents, etc.)

If the applicant is proposing to rename a park after an individual or organization, the following information is also required to be provided by the applicant:

- c. Background information and/or biographical information demonstrating that the proposed name is of significance to the community and/or the Town and is directly linked to the park;
- e. A letter addressed to the Town from the individual or organization being honoured, or in the event that the individual is deceased or the organization no longer exists, from their next of kin or legal representative, or past members of the organization, granting permission to rename the park; and

If the applicant is proposing to change an existing commemorative name, the following information is also required to be provided by the applicant:

- f. Written permission to rename the park from the individual, next of kin or legal representative, organization or past members associated with the original naming or development of the park.

6.2 Application Review

Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All applications for renaming shall undergo a process wherein staff will review the application for conformity to this policy and will circulate the application to the relevant stakeholders for review and comment on the suitability of the application. Fort Erie Museum Services staff are the expert resource and authority relative to the historical accuracy and appropriateness of a proposed name.

The duration of the review process will be dictated by the nature of the renaming application.

6.3 Community Consultation

Community members shall be informed of all renaming requests by way of notification in the newspaper, on the Town website, and through social media.

Following notification, members of the public will have thirty (30) calendar days to provide comments relative to the proposed name.

Information relative to park renaming requests will be provided through the Town's online public engagement platforms, through which members of the public may provide input. Comments may also be provided directly to Town staff.

The applicant shall be responsible for demonstrating to the Town that they have identified and consulted with the individual(s) or organization(s) that were involved in the original naming or development of the park. If the individual is deceased or the organization no longer exists, the applicant shall consult with the individual's next of kin or legal representative, or past members of the organization. The applicant must identify the parties consulted, and provide written permission for the name change.

6.4 Costs

a) Park Renaming Initiated by the Town

The costs associated with park renaming, including but not limited to Town wayfinding signage, administrative, ceremonial, and legal costs, shall be the responsibility of the Town.

b) Park Renaming Requests Initiated by Members of the Public

The Town shall bear administrative and Town wayfinding signage replacement costs. All other associated costs shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

SECTION 7.0 – NAME SELECTION

Following application review and community consultation, Town staff shall submit an administrative report to Council, outlining their review process and offering a recommendation for consideration. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. completed application form
- b. background and biographical information
- c. documentation supporting the request
- d. comments from stakeholders
- e. comments from community consultation
- f. associated financial implications
- g. option(s) for consideration
- h. recommendation

Aside from the applicant's name, the applicant's personal information will not be made public.

SECTION 8.0 – FINAL DECISION

The final decision on the naming or renaming of a Town park shall be made by Council.

GOLF

SWIM

Thunder Bay Golf & Beach Park



Swimming • Sun Bathing • Picnic Facilities



Heated Pool - Great Place to Relax



Regulation 9 Hole Golf Course on Lake Erie Waterfront



Paradise of Waterfront Recreational Opportunities

LOCATION: Convenient for our Canadian and U.S. friends residing in Regional Niagara or Western New York
— 10 minutes from Buffalo
— 15 to 30 minutes from Port Colborne, Welland, Niagara Falls or St. Catharines





Swimming • Sun Bathing • Picnic Facilities



Heated Pool - Great Place to Relax



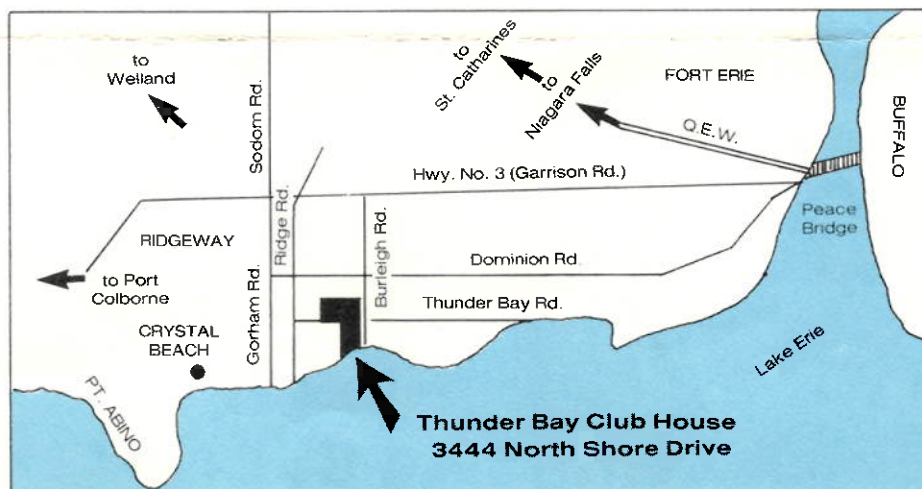
Regulation 9 Hole Golf Course on Lake Erie Waterfront



Paradise of Waterfront Recreational Opportunities

LOCATION: Convenient for our Canadian and U.S. friends residing in Regional Niagara or Western New York

- 10 minutes from Buffalo
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Thunder Bay Golf & Beach Park

offers a unique setting for **INDIVIDUAL FAMILY**, or **GROUP** enjoyment for:

• **THE GOLFER** • **THE SWIMMER** • **THE SUNBATHER** • **THE NATURE LOVER**

- Local Rules -

- 1) WINTER RULES - in effect unless otherwise noted.
- 2) NUMBER 8 - Flower bed is part of water hazard
- 3) FREE LIFTS - Trees under 8', bridges, course equipment, & ground under repair - nearest relief not nearer the hole.
- 4) FASTER PLAYERS- Please invite them to play through promptly.
- 5) PENALTY HAZARDS - Including ponds, flower beds, larger trees (8ft & over), etc., where ball is unplayable, ball may be dropped 2 club lengths - not nearer the hole. Penalty 1 stroke.
- 6) Please note the fences on #5, #6, #4, #2, and #1 are out of bounds. If ball is in bounds, but swing is restricted by fence, take nearest relief plus 1 club length, not nearer the hole.

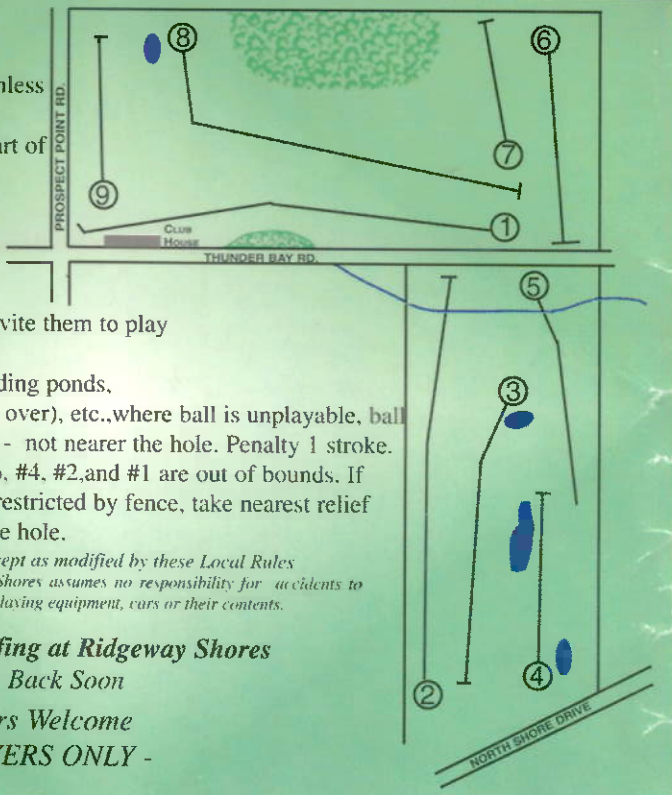
RCGA Rules govern play except as modified by these Local Rules
NOTICE TO ALL PATRONS: Ridgeway Shores assumes no responsibility for accidents to players on the course or damage to their playing equipment, cars or their contents.

Thank you for golfing at Ridgeway Shores

Come Back Soon

Visitors Welcome

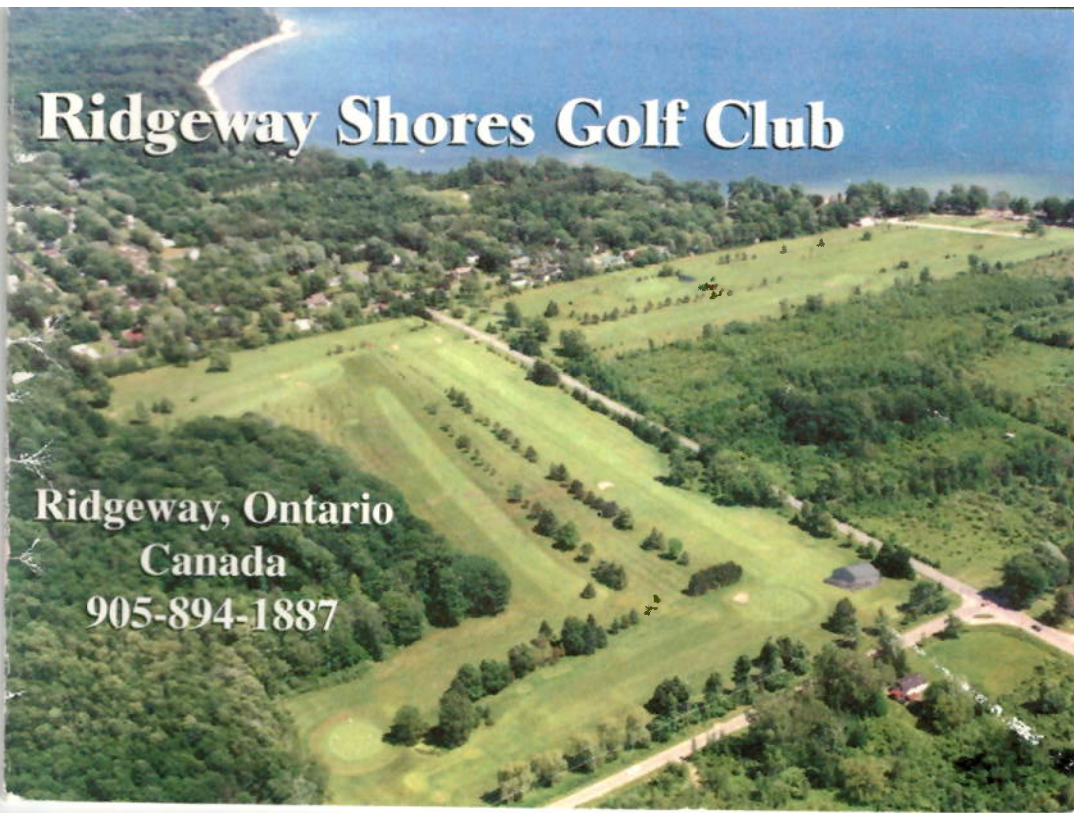
- PLAYERS ONLY -



Ridgeway Shores Golf Club

Ridgeway, Ontario
Canada

905-894-1887



localnews

■ **ENVIRONMENT:** Earl Plato honoured with lifetime achievement award

A life-long love of nature

MATT DAY
Niagara Falls Review

Earl Plato fell in love with the sights, smells and sounds of Marcy's Woods as a 10-year-old. Fast forward 70 years, and nothing's changed.

The longtime Ridgeway resident was recently presented with a lifetime achievement award during the Niagara Region's 2012 Environmental Awards held last Wednesday.

"Mr. Plato has shown a life-long passion for protecting the environment, promoting environmental education and stewardship," said Danielle De Fields, senior planner at the Region's Integrated Community Planning department.

"I didn't expect it," said Plato. "I don't know how I qualified. I'm in my 80s, so I guess a lifetime award makes sense."

Even after celebrating his 80th birthday last fall, Plato still volunteers his time in pre-serving what he calls his home away from home — the great outdoors.

He's still active in taking part in nature walks with the help of his electric scooter, recording what he sees and hears, and then writing about his experiences along the Friendship Trail in a weekly newspaper column and on his blog, Nature in Niagara.

But what he's most notably known for his founding the Bert

Miller Nature Club in the mid 1980s, an organization in honour of his mentor that strives to improve, protect and sustain the wildlife and natural resources of Niagara.

"He was two things," said Plato of Miller. "He was a great nature lover and knew about every plant there was. He also knew his birds, too. He was just a real naturalist and I wanted to do that for him."

Under Plato's guidance, the Bert Miller Nature Club was instrumental in preserving the 285-acre piece of Carolinian sandhill forest for which both men shared a passion.

When the property was put up for sale following Dr. George Marcy's death, there was pressure from private investors want-

ing to purchase the land for commercial use.

Plato and the Bert Miller Nature Club ended up working with the DiCenzo family of Niagara Falls to preserve the land in 2003.

It's what Plato calls his greatest achievement.

"When they originally stepped in, I thought it was game over," said Plato, recalling his first thoughts of the multi-million dollar purchase. "A year or two passed and no one was allowed in there. That's when I got a call and it was all positive."

The family vowed to keep the natural preserve as is, and even invested money into refurbishing broken down steps and other cleanup initiatives.

Plato, a former principal, continued to lead school groups through Marcy's Woods even during retirement, sharing his knowledge with students about one of Canada's most unique forests.

Plato said he believes his Christian faith plays a part in his love for nature.

"The Bible talks about the Creator and I think it's a spinoff of that."

And while his sight may not be as good as it was 70 years ago, hearing the wind whisp through tulip trees, or the relentless tapping of a pileated woodpecker is something he said he'll never get tired of.



MATT DAY Niagara Falls Review
Earl Plato stands in Marcy's Woods, a place he grew up visiting and later on helped to protect.

SiriusXM

BOBBI CARAVAN KIDS

FROM THE HEART OF NATURE. ACCEPT. CHRYSLER CANADA.

BEST BUY - CORRECTION NOTICE

NEWSPAPER RETRACTION FOR THE BEST BUY JUNE 15 CORROIANE T118 Please be advised that the Samsung Galaxy SIII pre-order offer (advertised on the June 15 page, page 11) is no longer valid. Regrettably, no more pre-orders will be taken due to unanticipated high demand of the product and limited inventory. Please note that the item will also be limited in quantity with no handouts on the release date, which is now being moved to a later time. The phone will officially be available on June 27, 2012. We apologize for any inconvenience. Buy any SIII T118, T119, T120, T121, T122, T123, T124, T125, T126, T127, T128, T129, T130, T131, T132, T133, T134, T135, T136, T137, T138, T139, T140, T141, T142, T143, T144, T145, T146, T147, T148, T149, T150, T151, T152, T153, T154, T155, T156, T157, T158, T159, T160, T161, T162, T163, T164, T165, T166, T167, T168, T169, T170, T171, T172, T173, T174, T175, T176, T177, T178, T179, T180, T181, T182, T183, T184, T185, T186, T187, T188, T189, T190, T191, T192, T193, T194, T195, T196, T197, T198, T199, T200, T201, T202, T203, T204, T205, T206, T207, T208, T209, T210, T211, T212, T213, T214, T215, T216, T217, T218, T219, T220, T221, T222, T223, T224, T225, T226, T227, T228, T229, T230, T231, T232, T233, T234, T235, T236, T237, T238, T239, T240, T241, T242, T243, T244, T245, T246, T247, T248, T249, T250, T251, T252, T253, T254, T255, T256, T257, T258, T259, T260, T261, T262, T263, T264, T265, T266, T267, T268, T269, T270, T271, T272, T273, T274, T275, T276, T277, T278, T279, T280, T281, 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P officer led hostage incident

en Redford returns to court
for sentencing

GLE
ter

Niagara Regional
in Redford knew what
when he held three
age at gunpoint in

will be going to jail for
rs, said Judge Stephen
Superior Court of Jus-
Wednesday.

aid the Crown had
beyond a reasonable
er, he said he would
finding of guilt or a
il March 6 when Red-
court for sentencing.

determine the appro-
to record conviction,"
adding Redford stood
arges, many of which
offences arising out of
circumstances.

told the minimum
sentence for the hostage-
alone is four years in

also revoked Redford's
ewing the results of a
ent by the behavioural
at the Ontario Provin-

the 42-year-old officer
the Niagara Detention
ective custody until his

ara Regional Police
e assessment "out of
the potential threat Ken-
ed should he be con-
rt," said lead investiga-
Mark McMullen.

stated Redford "presents
or violence to both him-
rs."

hoked back tears and
ly members before being
officers, people he once
gside during his 12 years

Charges against Redford
sault with a weapon,
infinement and uttering
ts. He had pleaded not
counts.

one denied Redford took
hostage, defence lawyer
ette argued his client was
ally responsible for his

actions as he had an impaired con-
sciousness due to withdrawal from
the anti-depressant medication Paxil.

Also, Redford had been under a lot
of stress – both personal and profes-
sional – prior to the incident.

Court heard Redford had been tak-
ing Paxil as treatment for depression.

He had been prescribed 40 mg a
day, but had, at times, increased the
dosage to 80 to 100 mg a day.

He had stopped taking the medica-
tion approximately three weeks
before taking the three men hostage.

The incident began earlier that day
when nurses at the Greater Niagara
General Hospital told him he would
not be allowed to speak to his wife,
who was a patient at the time.

Upset and angry, he drove to the
Fort Erie police detachment and
grabbed his service revolver.

He called 911, threatening to shoot
himself if he was not allowed to
speak with his wife.

He later took three men hostage at
the Fort Erie landfill site, threatening
to shoot them if his demands were
not met.

The men were later released
unharmed.

Crown attorney Ian Scott argued
Redford knew exactly what he was
doing. He wanted to talk to his wife
at all costs. He had a goal, he said,
not a mental disorder.

When interviewed by a series of
psychologists and psychiatrists in the
days, weeks and months after the
incident, court was told, Redford's
version of events would often
change.

"Mr. Redford has an answer for
everything," the judge said in agree-
ment.

"If questions were heading in a
direction he didn't like, he would be
evasive or say he couldn't remember.
If he couldn't explain them away,
then he denies having the conversa-
tion."

The judge said the 911 tapes of
Redford demanding to see his wife or
he'd shoot the hostages was clear evi-
dence the defendant knew what he
was doing that day and was in full
control of his actions.

alangleyn@nreview.com

raiser slated for typhoon victims

ALLS – The Filipino-Cana-
tion of Niagara is sponsor-
ing event for last year's
ion disaster in the Philip-
es place Saturday at the
is Golf Club on Garner
duled to appear are Casino
Willy Santos, Noel Amar
d Cecil Fisher. Canned
hing or money will be
uring the night. The event
30 p.m.

arrested

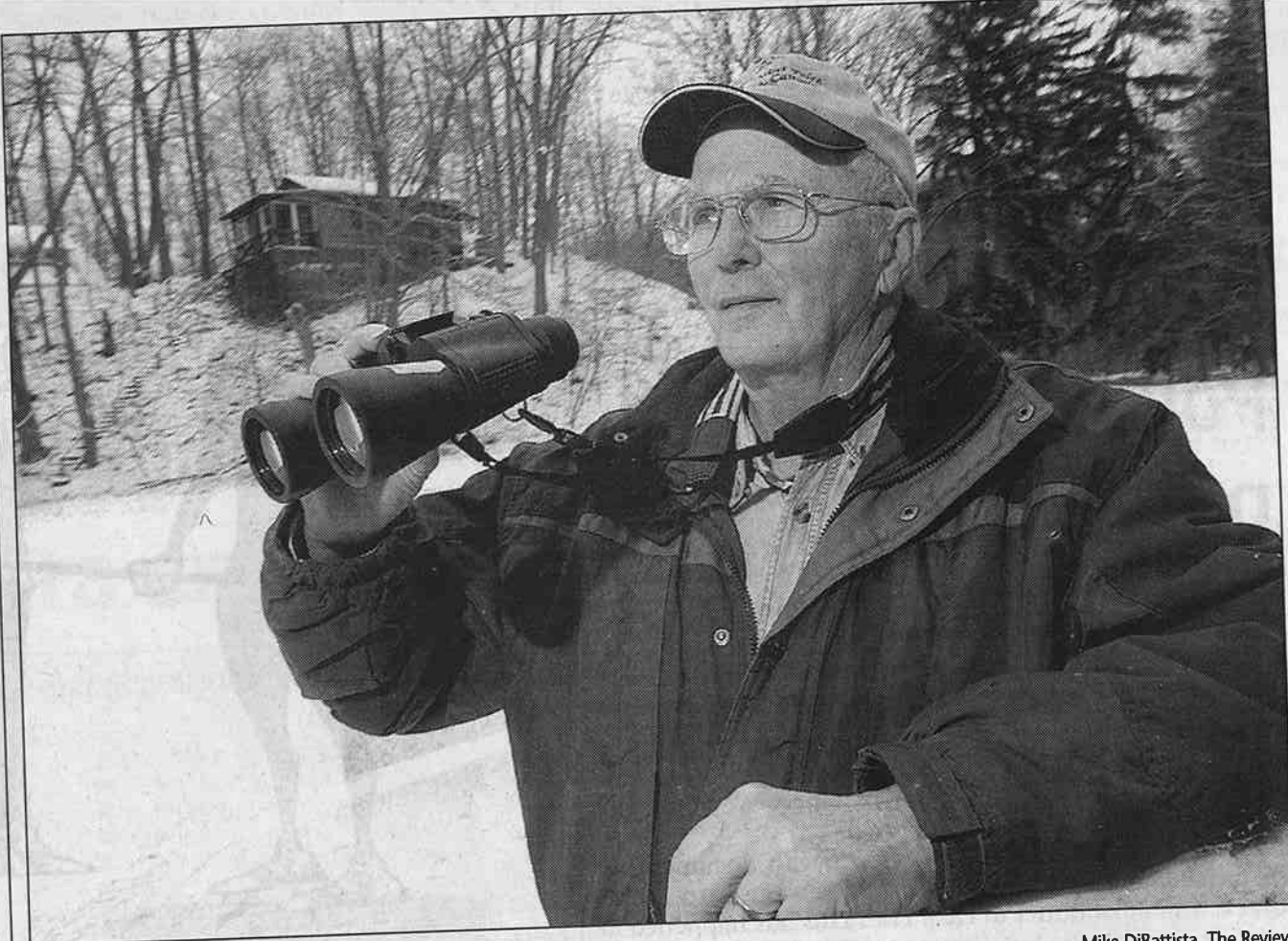
he break-in

– A 15-year-old youth has
ted following the break and
home in the Thunder Bay
t Erie Jan. 15. Police recov-
n property valued at more
00, and discovered stolen

Tuesday night. The suspect is
described as non-white, about 160
pounds, wearing a long, puffy coat
with a white tuque, and is about 25
years of age. He entered the gas bar at
6644 Lundy's Lane just before 8 p.m.
armed with a handgun and fled with
an undisclosed amount of cash.

Police make arrest in string of thefts

PORT COLBORNE – Police have arrested
a suspect in a string of recent thefts. On
Tuesday, a male entered a 7-11 store
and swiped 10 boxes of items from the
counter. He was identified, and a war-
rant was issued for his arrest. Police
believe it is the same man who removed
boxes of DVDs during trips to the Zellers
store at Seaway Mall, then later pawned
them for cash. Charged with theft is



Mike DiBattista, The Review

Fort Erie resident Earl Plato, who has written columns for the Niagara Falls Review for much of the past 20 years, is trading in nature and history columns for children's books. Plato founded the Bert Miller Nature Club which worked to preserve Marcy's Woods (where this photo was taken). He is also a founder of the Bertie Historical Society.

Plato says goodbye

Longtime Review contributor Earl Plato ends columns

BY JENNIFER PELLEGRINI
Review Staff Writer

Earl Plato's small home in Ridge-
way is a testament to his three loves.

Photos of smiling children hang on
walls and sit on bookcases, a testa-
ment to the legacy he created
through his four daughters and one
son. There are also images of flowers
in bloom, binders that catalogue
hundreds of species of wildflowers,
grasses and creatures calling Marcy's
Woods home.

Portraits of Butlers' Rangers and
maps of Fort Erie prior to the Fenian
Raids and the War of 1812 hang on
the wall, an homage to the nearly 25
decades that members of the Plato
(now Plato) family have called Fort
Erie home.

And then there are the certificates
that line the walls – university
degrees, recognition of his status as a
United Empire Loyalist, a lifetime
achievement award for his efforts in
environmental education and ones
honouring 30-plus years as a volun-
teer in the community, including co-
founding the Bertie Historical Society.

"My degrees are in history," says
Plato, a retired elementary teacher
and principal who has written articles
on history and nature for The Review
and its weekly sister publication in
Fort Erie since retiring from the class-
room in 1985. "I'm not really a good
scientist. I love nature, but I'd say I'm
more of a historian."

This month, Plato decided he
would no longer be writing his
columns for The Review – something,
he says, "I do every five years or so,
decide to stop writing."
"I need a break."

FORT ERIE is a lot different today
than it was when Plato and his broth-
ers grew up on a farmhouse on Garri-
son Road.

For those who know the area, the
Plato homestead sat between Conces-
sion Road and Thompson Road,
where the Tim-Br Mart is today.

They had six acres of land,
although farming did not sustain the
family.

Plato's father worked at Horton
Steel, alongside Albert Weatherstone

Miller – a steelworker by trade and a
self-taught naturalist who devoted his
life to collecting and preserving rare
plants and shrubs throughout the
peninsula.

Miller was already approaching
retirement when he first instilled in
eight-year-old Earl Plato an apprecia-
tion of nature.

"As a young kid – eight years old –
I had polio," recalls Plato, who is now
75. "Bert Miller came to visit us. I was
sitting at the window and a purple
martin came up. Bert Miller said,
'Why don't you keep a record of it
and sketch it?'"

"I did, and that's how I became so
interested in nature."

"My degrees are in history. I'm not really a good scientist. I love nature, but I'd say I'm more of a historian."

Earl Plato

Plato recovered, and went on to
become a teacher and an elementary
school principal. So interested did he
become in nature, Plato would often
take students on field trips to explore
the outdoors.

He remembers one time, six or
seven years before Miller died in
1975, when Miller accompanied Plato
and his class on a trip to Marcy's
Woods, south of Highway 3 near the
Port Colborne border.

"He was 86, and I had these kids
with me. We climbed up the hill and
when I looked back, Bert was lying on
the ground. I thought he was dead,"
says Plato. "I ran back to him and he
was looking at something. I thought
he was dead."

He remembers his mentor as some-
one who "always had time to teach
kids something. He was like a teacher.
I found out later Bert always used to
say, 'Learn something new and smile
at a child.'"

That's something he has tried to do
all his life, by guiding young minds
in the classroom and out in nature.

As one of the founding members of
the Bert Miller Nature Club, Plato has
done much to promote the message
of conservation and environmental
stewardship.

"Earl is a dedicated teacher, and not
only was he a school principal but he
is a teacher of nature to a lot of kids

in the Fort Erie area," says Rick Stock-
ton, vice-president of the Bert Miller
Nature Club.

"He still takes kids into the woods
and teaches them natural history.
He's really quite extraordinary in the
way he relates to kids and teaches
them about nature."

Tim Seburn, who has been a mem-
ber with Plato since its creation a
decade ago, agrees.

"(Earl) reminded me of something
the other night," he said. "Of how
important it is to get people out there
in nature and get their hands dirty.
It's just how Bert Miller was. Earl
really is continuing in the tradition of
Bert Miller."

IN ADDITION to writing about and
sketching nature, Plato has become
an expert of sorts on local history.

In addition to his regular column
about Fort Erie history, Plato has writ-
ten books about events happening in
the area, including "Terror at Snake
Hill," "Siege at Fort Erie" and "Snake
Hill: The Destroyer."

He was one of the co-founders of
the Bertie Historical Society, again fol-
lowing in the footsteps of his mentor
who founded its counterpart in Fort
Erie.

"Because I loved this man so
much," Plato says, "I wanted to do
things like him for the community."

Fort Erie Historical Museum curator
Jane Davies has high praise for Plato.

"Earl's enthusiasm for local history
is contagious and he has inspired all
of us here at the museum, as he has
inspired generations of readers for
decades."

"Local history is best told from
many points of view and Earl's con-
tributions to the story that is Fort Erie
have always been interesting and well
received."

Plato said while he's retiring from
his column, he has no plans to stop
writing.

At the request of his children, he'll
bring back a series of short stories he
worked on years ago, including "Susie
and Robbie and the Old Mill Mys-
tery."

"I always thought it was good to
have girls and boys together in sto-
ries," he said of the mysteries. "I'm
probably going to self-publish. I
won't drop that. (Just like Bert
Miller), I like the idea of encouraging
kids."

jpelligrini@nreview.com

Live well with
PHARMASAVE

TEMPUR-PEDIC
PRESSURE RELIEVING
SWEDISH MATTRESSES AND PILLOWS
NIAGARA'S EXCLUSIVE