



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

MEETING DATE: January 15, 2013

SUBJECT: Report APRAC13-001
Presentation by the Fenner Foundation

PURPOSE

A report to introduce a presentation by, and correspondence from the president of the Fenner Foundation on the Foundation's desire to establish a monument on City owned land in honour of the British "home children", who settled in the Peterborough Area between 1867 and 1935.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC13-001 dated January 15, 2013, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That correspondence from the Fenner Foundation and a presentation by the Foundation's president, Stanley MacLean be received for information.
- b) That the request to establish the proposed monument on City owned land be denied;
- c) That the project proponent be encouraged to secure an alternate site for the proposed monument outside the City boundaries, ideally in the Village of Lakefield; and
- d) That the preparation and installation of a Heritage Recognition Plaque in Nicholls Oval Park be encouraged as a City sponsored alternative.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of Report APRAC13-001.

BACKGROUND

The Fenner Foundation is a federally chartered, registered charitable family trust, whose purpose is to honour all British “home children” for their contribution to the development of Canada. The home children were orphaned children who immigrated to Canada between 1867 and 1935.

The President of the Fenner Foundation, Mr. Stanley MacLean submitted correspondence to the City’s Recreation Division detailing a proposal to establish a large monument in honour of the British home children, within a 30 x 30 foot area at the southeast corner of Nicholls Oval Park. They envision the monument containing the names of each of the home children that immigrated to the Peterborough area. The correspondence, which includes a brief history of the home children, a description of the proposed monument, and the rationale for the proposed site is attached as Appendix “A”. Concept drawings of the monument are attached as Appendix “B”. Mr. MacLean will attend the Arenas, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) meeting on January 15, 2013 to make a presentation on their proposal.

City Staff believe the immigration of the home children to the Peterborough area had its greatest impact on the County of Peterborough, rather than on the City. At the time of the immigration, seventy-five percent or more of Ontario's population was rural and the majority of the home children were situated with farmers as cheap labour. Boys came as farm labourers, the girls as mother's helpers.

On October 19, 2012, City staff met with Mr. MacLean, who explained that the Fenner Foundation had already approached the County of Peterborough to establish the monument on County owned land. However, the Foundation was not successful in securing the County’s support.

Staff recognizes there may be some merit in the City commemorating the immigration of the home children to the Peterborough area. Staff would be supportive of taking a modest approach by erecting a small commemorative heritage plaque at the City’s expense, rather than creating a large monument. This approach has been taken in other Canadian cities. Attached as Appendix “C” are photos of the home children plaques in Ottawa and Stratford. Given that Colonel Sam Strickland started the home children movement and once owned and occupied the property that is now known as Nicholls

Oval Park, that site appears to be an appropriate location to erect the home children heritage plaque. Wording could be included on the plaque to indicate the significance of Nicholls Oval Park to the home children movement.

Should the project proponent wish to continue to pursue the larger scale project, staff would encourage him to explore the possibility of a new rural site, ideally in the Village of Lakefield, where Colonel Sam Strickland had also resided.

Future requests for similar type monuments will be treated by staff as Public Art requests and will be subject to the Public Art review and approval process.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Correspondence from the Fenner Foundation

Appendix B – Detailed Drawings of the Proposed Monument

Appendix C – Photos of Home Children Plaques in Ottawa and Stratford