



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Arenas, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee**

**From:** **Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services**

**Meeting Date:** **March 17, 2015**

**Subject:** **Report APRAC15-016  
Proposed Renaming of Simcoe and Bethune Park**

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## **Purpose**

A report to receive and respond to correspondence proposing to rename the Simcoe and Bethune Park in honour of Stompin' Tom Connors.

## **Recommendations**

That the Arenas, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC15-016 dated March 17, 2015 of the Director of Community Services as follows:

- a) That the correspondence from Hank Fisher proposing to rename the Simcoe and Bethune Street Park in honour of Stompin' Tom Connors be received;
- b) That the proposal for renaming the park not be supported or endorsed; and
- c) That the matter be referred to the Arts Culture & Heritage Division/ Advisory Committee for consideration as either a potential public art project or other appropriate form of recognition.

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## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There is no budget or financial implications with the adoption of this report.

## **Background**

Late last fall, the Director of Community Services received correspondence from Hank Fisher. He proposed to rename the existing Simcoe and Bethune Street Park in honour of Stompin' Tom Connors, enclosed. He expressed concern that there either was no formal name for the park or that it just reflected the physical location.

He proposed renaming the park after Stompin' Tom because it is located just a block west of the former King George Tavern. That's where waiter, Boyd MacDonald, bestowed his moniker on Stompin' Tom on Canada Day in 1967.

The City's Naming Policy, as approved in Report CSCH03-005, August 12, 2003 provides a context for both naming and renaming City Streets, Parks, and Municipal Buildings/ Facilities. The proposal complies with section 6.1 specifically as follows:

Parks and Municipal Building/ Facilities should be named to recognize individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to the public life and well-being of the City of Peterborough, the Province or the Country, or to recognize significant local geographical or historical features/ events.

There is no question of Stompin' Tom's national contribution, or his local connections. The Peterborough Postman was one of his songs. He is recognized in the Peterborough Pathway of Fame. He was presented with the keys to the City. His longstanding promoter, Brian Edwards of Rockland Entertainment, is located here. And, he even helped plan his national tribute held at the Peterborough Memorial Centre in March of 2013.

If the intent of the proposal was to recognize Stompin' Tom's local impact and attract tourists, it falls short. Since Stompin' Tom had no connection to the park they would be disappointed. It is, however, a good idea for some other form of appropriate public recognition.

Possible projects include public art, either downtown or at the Memorial Centre; or a star of fame on the sidewalk outside the former King Edward Hotel, like the Ray McGregor tribute outside the Red Dog. These and other suggestions should be referred to the City's Arts Culture & Heritage Division/ Advisory Committee for consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Ken Doherty  
Director of Community Services

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Attachments: Correspondence from Hank Fisher