

MUNICIPAL ASSET NAMING – BILL ROBERTSON

Issue

To name a municipal asset after the late Mayor Bill Robertson.

Motion Arising From In Camera

Council direction is required.

Report

This report includes a list of municipal assets that are presently unnamed or could be renamed to honour Bill Robertson. It also includes background information on other long-serving mayors who have municipal assets named after them as well as those who died while serving as mayor.

Background:

Bill Robertson served 15 years (five terms) as councillor and 11 years (one three-year term and two four-year terms) as mayor for a total of 26 years. He taught with the Foothills School Division for 33 years.

Naming History of Long-Serving Mayors

- George Lock served as Mayor 18 years (1950-1968) and six years as councillor for a total of 24 years. Lock Crescent/Lock Place are named after him.
- Patrick Milligan served as Mayor for nine years (1968-1977) plus eight years as councillor for a total of 17 years. Milligan Drive is named after him.
- Bill Wylie served as Mayor for 12 years (1977-1989) plus six years as councillor for a total of 18 years. Wylie Athletic Park, which encompasses the Okotoks Recreation Centre and the playing fields, is named after him.
- Bill McAlpine served as Mayor for 12 years (1998-2010) and six years as a councillor (1971-1977) for a total of 18 years. McAlpine Crossing on 32nd Street is named after him.

Two Okotoks Mayors Died While in Office

- Harold Banister served three years as Mayor and died Oct. 6, 1934. He served two years previously as councillor. Banister Drive and Banister Gate are named after him.
- Antonie (Tom) Visser was serving his first term as councillor in 1934 when he assumed the Mayor's role after the death of Harold Banister. He served as Mayor until December, 1936 when he also died while in office. Visser Way and Visser Place are named after him.

Potential Municipal Assets

1. Large Parks

- A. Riverside Community Park - 1400 North Railway Street
Connection to Bill: Bill served on council when the sod turning ceremony was held for this park in 1996, and witnessed its development (and redevelopment after the 2005 flood) over its 25-year history, including the most recent addition of the beach volleyball courts. The park encompasses two of Bill's passions: youth and recreation. This multi-use space contains 3 playing fields, 4 ball diamonds (including Seaman Stadium), a BMX track and related amenities including toilets, picnic tables, accessible play structure and outdoor fitness equipment. This option is the preferred choice of SLT.
- B. Drake Landing Soccer Park - 45 Drake Landing Drive - Community park has two playing fields, playground, porta-potty, pathways, toboggan hill, parking lot.
- C. Cimarron Park – 175 Cimarron Drive - Includes pathways, pedestrian bridge, picnic shelter, picnic table, playground, raised fire pits, toboggan hill, outdoor rink, toilet building

2. Small Neighbourhood Parks

- A. Triangle Park - 34 North Railway Street - playground, picnic table
- B. Cedar Grove Park - 103 Lock Crescent - basketball court, outdoor rink, playground, picnic table
- C. Drake Landing Gardens Park – 26 Drake Landing Garden – playground
- D. Crystal Shores Park – 337 Banister Drive - playground, pathways
- E. Crystal Green Manor Park - 110 Crystal Green Drive playground, pathways
- F. Crystalridge Point Park – 14 Crystalridge Point – small green space
- G. Air Ranch SE Park - 215 Ranch Road – playground
- H. Sandstone Ridge Park - 5 Sandstone Ridge Cr. – playground, pathways, picnic table.
- I. Sandstone Drive Park - 227 Sandstone Drive - pathway
- J. Mountainview Drive Park - pathway picnic tables, playground
- K. Woodgrove Park - 507 Woodgrove Bay – playground pathway
- L. Cimarron Park – 175 Cimarron Drive pathways, pedestrian bridge, picnic shelter, picnic table, playground, raised fire pits, toboggan hill, outdoor rink, toilet building
- M. Westridge Close Park – 118 Westridge Close – pathway and outdoor rink
- N. A number of smaller, undeveloped and unnamed parks exist in the newer neighbourhoods of Wedderburn and D'Arcy Ranch.
- O. Several connector pathways also exist throughout Okotoks.

3. Storm Pond Parks

- A. Cimarron Springs Storm Pond Park – 182 Cimarron Drive - natural area, footbridge and pathway.
- B. Westmount Storm Pond Park – 280 Southridge Drive – pathway and natural area.
- C. Sheep River Cove Storm Pond Park – 9 Sheep River Boulevard – natural area and pathways.

- D. Crystalridge Storm Pond Park – 1 Crystalridge Link – natural area and pathways.
4. Streets
- A. 32nd Street. This may affect addressing of at least two properties, HTA and St. James Church. *Connection to Bill:* Bill served on council when the bridge was completed, linking 32nd Street on both sides of the Sheep River.
- B. 338th Avenue.
5. Outdoor Amenities
- A. Olde Towne Okotoks Plaza (also informally known as Clock Tower Plaza). Already includes McArthur Stage and Linda Boychuk Meeting Place. Prior to the creation of this plaza, the area that surrounded the tree at the former Y intersection was named Herb Stephenson Park. *Connection to Bill:* This is where he flipped the switch to light the Christmas tree on Light Up.
- B. Former Bible Camp lands (may be considered for future indigenous use). Acquired during Bill's term as mayor.
- C. Land east and south of former Cameron Crossing property (I believe it's under consideration for Henry Rowles family park – although there is already a Rowles Park at 52 Drake Landing Ridge)
- D. Plaza at the Municipal Centre.
6. Indoor Amenities (*all of which connect with Bill's passion for recreation and youth*)
- A. Leisure ice surface at Pason Arena (may limit naming rights/sponsorship opportunities in the future).
- B. Green or gold arenas at Pason Arena (may limit naming rights/ sponsorship opportunities in the future).
- C. Gymnasium at Okotoks Recreation Centre (may cause confusion with the Bill Robertson Gymnasium at Percy Pegler School).

Attachment(s)

n/a

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2021-09-03