



# Corporate Report

NO: R089

COUNCIL DATE: May 25, 2009

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: May 15, 2009  
FROM: General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture FILE: 8200-20  
SUBJECT: Naming of Recreation Centre in Tom Binnie Park

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## RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. approve the name "*Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre*" for the new recreation centre in Tom Binnie Park that is currently under construction; and
2. approve the name "*Joe Burns Gymnasium*" for a gymnasium within the subject recreation centre.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for names for the recreation centre that is currently under construction in Tom Binnie Park and a gymnasium within that recreation centre.

## BACKGROUND

### New Recreation Centre:

As an Olympic Games legacy project and to meet the growing recreational needs of the City's residents in the City Centre and North Surrey area, Council approved the building of a multi-purpose recreation centre in Tom Binnie Park in 2008. The completed facility will provide 20,000 square feet of recreation space for community use. The first phase of the facility that

contains the Olympic Games Preparation Centre has an area of approximately 7,000 square feet and is substantially complete. The completion of the remainder of the facility is scheduled for the fall 2009.

**Facility Naming Policy:**

The City’s policy, “Naming of Parks and Facilities” (attached as Appendix A) includes the following criteria:

*“City parks and amenities tend to be used by a great number of people and whenever possible should bear names which identify their general location or key site features. They could also be named after benefactors or sponsors who have made an extraordinary contribution to the community. (Examples: Bear Creek Park, Stewart Farm House, and Guildford Recreation Centre)”*

and

*“Consideration may be given to naming parks and amenities after outstanding community volunteers.”*

**DISCUSSION**

The new recreation centre in Tom Binnie Park will provide to the City Centre and Whalley communities a diverse offering of programs and services for all ages. The Whalley Athletic Park and the Tom Binnie Park are known for sports excellence, inclusion and accessibility. The addition of the new recreation centre will allow for new indoor recreational programs to be offered in City Centre and will also offer arts and cultural programming to engage the community in a full spectrum of leisure and cultural pursuits. Pre-school, children and youth programming will be major focus of the programs at the Centre.

**Mr. Chuck Bailey:**

Mr. Chuck Bailey was a well-regarded and influential member of the Whalley community for many years. Chuck was a fixture in the local baseball scene for over 50 years, spending most of his adult life involved in Little League Baseball and in building a Whalley baseball program that is famous as one of Canada’s perennial powerhouses. He helped establish the Challenger Baseball Program, which provides children with special needs the opportunity to play ball with other kids. His dedication and generosity contributed to more than 160 district, provincial and national championship pennants for the Whalley Little League.

In 2007 the Premier named Mr. Bailey a recipient of the BC Community Achievement Award. This award is meant to honour and recognize those individuals who work for the betterment of their communities. Mr. Bailey was also awarded Surrey’s Citizen of the Year in 1999 and was more recently a recipient of The Leader newspaper’s Community Leader Award in the category of “community mentor”.

Mr. Bailey passed away on March 20, 2008. He lived his life for the Whalley community, Little League Baseball and “teaching the game of Baseball and making it fun”. He always espoused

the principles of participation and fair play. He was a mentor, a father figure to many and most of all, a friend to all that knew him and the thousands of children whose lives he affected through his 50+ years in baseball.

As a lasting legacy to Chuck Bailey and to pay tribute to all that he contributed to the community, it is fitting that the new recreation centre in Tom Binnie Park be named the “Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre”.

### **Mr. Joe Burns:**

Less than 6 months after the death of Chuck Bailey, the community of Whalley was saddened again by the sudden passing of Mr. Joe Burns. Mr. Burns was also heavily involved with baseball throughout his life and was one of the driving forces behind Whalley Little League’s recent successes. He was a consistent contributor to and advocate on behalf of the Whalley Little League. He will be remembered for his sense of humour, his unending love of baseball and his gift for coaching kids. As a testament to Mr. Burn’s achievements, it is recommended that one of the new gymnasiums in the new recreation centre on Tom Binnie Park be named the “Joe Burns Gymnasium”.

Staff contacted the families of each of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Burns, respectively, and each of the families has expressed their full and strong support of the City’s proposed course of action with respect to naming the new recreation centre.

The recommendations of this report are consistent with the City’s policy for naming facilities as referenced above.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council:

- approve the name “*Chuck Bailey Recreation Centre*” for the new recreation centre in Tom Binnie Park; and
- approve the name “*Joe Burns Gymnasium*” for a gymnasium within the subject recreation centre.

Laurie Cavan  
General Manager  
Parks, Recreation and Culture

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**PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT****POLICY MANUAL**

<b>SUBJECT:    PARKS &amp; FACILITIES NAMING</b>
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**INTENT**

To establish a clear Policy for naming parks as well as Parks, Recreation and Culture buildings, assets and amenities.

## 1. Park and amenity categories.

- A. **City** parks and amenities tend to be used by a great number of people and whenever possible should bear names, which identify their general location or key site features. They could also be named after benefactors or sponsors who have made an extraordinary contribution to the community. (Examples: Bear Creek Park, Stewart Farm House, and Surrey Arts Centre)
- B. **Community** parks and amenities tend to be used by the next greatest number of people and should, whenever possible, be given names which identify:
  - (a) The community in which they are located (i.e.: Cloverdale Athletic park, Fleetwood Community Centre);
  - (b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the park is located (i.e.: Lionel Courchene Park);
  - (c) Major donors or sponsors (XYZ Company Youth Park);
  - (d) Names arising from a community-based selection process (i.e.: The Garage-South Surrey Youth Centre).
- C. **Neighbourhood** parks and amenities tend to be used by fewer people than City and community parks, are more difficult to name for their location, and therefore should be given names recognizing:
  - (a) Special features or major plant life indigenous to parks (i.e.: Cottontail tot lot);
  - (b) Surrey pioneers known in the area in which the park is located (i.e.: Moffat Memorial Park);
  - (c) Local street and subdivision names, excluding real estate and development companies (i.e.: Strawberry Hill Park);
  - (d) Significant donors or sponsors, including real estate and development companies who make a significant donation in excess of normal development cost charges;
  - (e) Former property owner who donated the land (i.e.: Bell Park).
- D. **Greenbelts**, linkages and conservation areas may never be developed as parks and should be assigned numbers for reference purposes in accordance with the grid system used to identify planning/engineering map detail. Where community groups

propose to name a greenbelt, these areas may also be treated as neighbourhood parks.

2. Whenever a park has come to be known traditionally but not officially by a name which is not so familiar to the name of an existing park to be confusing, then serious consideration should be given to formal adoption of the traditional name.
3. Consideration may be given to naming parks and amenities after outstanding community volunteers. Consideration may also be given to naming parks and amenities after retired City employees, if the employee has given outstanding service to the City and/or has made a noteworthy contribution to the well-being of the City.
4. Consideration should be given to naming donated park sites and facilities constructed on donated land after the donor.
5. Parks immediately adjacent to existing school sites should bear the same name as the school (neighbourhood and community parks).
6. The preferred methods for selecting a name are:
  - through popular choice either via a petition, school contest, or other form of community involvement;
  - as a result of donation and/or sponsorship.
7. Naming parks or amenities after sponsors can only be done in accordance with the city's Sponsorship Policy.

### **PRACTICES WHICH SHOULD BE AVOIDED**

1. Naming a park after a current politician.
2. Naming a park or facility after a nearby but not immediately adjacent school or institution that may lead to confusion regarding their respective locations.

Overall park standard is 20 acres per 1,000 population, made up of the following:

- (a) *Neighbourhood Park - 1.5 acres per 1,000 population*  
Neighbourhood Parks are designed to eventually serve an urban area of approximately one half-mile radius with up to 5,000 people. A minimum of four acres should be required when planned alone, or it should be of sufficient acreage, when added to an elementary school site, to provide a minimum 11 acre site. It is intended for neighbourhood functions and includes games, play areas, and areas of special interest.
- (b) *Village Park - 2.0 acres per 1,000 population*  
A Village Park should serve an urban community of up to 25,000 people in a one-mile radius according to standards received from other centres. However, we question if this is possible with the size of our Municipality. A Village Park is best located in conjunction with a secondary school, to allow the inclusion of community facilities requiring substantial open space from 30 to 50 acres. These facilities may include community playing fields, swimming pools, tennis courts and other active recreational needs of the community.
- (c) *Town Park - 5 acres per 1,000 population*  
This type of park is designed to serve people on a Municipality-wide basis both with active and passive recreation. Characteristics may include picnicking, nature areas, floral displays,

and major facilities intended to accommodate large numbers. It is recommended that such a park should be between 50 to 100 acres in size.

(d) *Special Areas - Approximately 2.0 acres per 1,000 population*

These areas are specifically designed to accommodate drainage courses or the retention of an existing natural feature and this category is included because of council's interest in this type of park and drainage requirement. A figure for the amount of parkland required is included primarily for the purposes of calculation, as the location and amount of ravines and watercourses vary throughout the City.

(e) *Regional Parks - 9.5 acres per 1,000 population*

These park sites are acquired by the GVRD (Parks Branch) and are usually in excess of 100 acres. Normally, Regional Parks are located within a short driving distance of the urbanized areas and in Surrey, the Tynehead Regional Park is an excellent example. It should be noted that this standard is only a recommendation to the GVRD, which is responsible for the establishment of an overall standard.

Integration with school sites to be carried out where possible.

The City's commitment to the new standards shall not exceed 10.5 acres per 1,000 population at any time.