

**Veteran Recognition Opportunities Within the Community****Report Purpose**

To outline the results, options, and recommendations for additional Remembrance Day tributes and acknowledgment in Strathcona County.

**Recommendations**

1. THAT the name " \_\_\_\_\_ " for the park site as set out in Enclosure 1 of the July 16, 2024 Transportation Engineering and Operations report, be approved.
2. THAT administration work within the existing Public Art Acquisition program to have an artist create a visible entrance feature to the Cenotaph.
3. THAT the purchase of the Poppy Foundation flag for installation at the community flagpole around Remembrance Day, with funding from existing operational budgets, be approved.
4. THAT the installation of traffic cabinet wraps with commemorative images as part of the 2024 Traffic Signal/Intersection Replacement Program, with funding from existing operational budget, be approved.

**Our Strategic Goals**

Goal 2 - Healthy and Safe Community

Goal 2 Priority - A diverse, welcoming, inclusive, and an accessible community for all

**Report**

This report is in response to a motion requesting additional options for consideration to further recognize veterans in Strathcona County.

While preparing this report, Transportation Engineering and Operations has had meetings with several departments to solicit ideas based on the direction provided from Council when it was first presented on March 12, 2024. We were also invited to attend the Edmonton Salutes Committee by member Councillor Berghofer. This regional committee is made up of members within the Canadian Military, Capital Region municipalities, and other community groups. The Committee was appreciative of Councils' desire to look at further ways to connect appreciation for our veterans and to ensure the options aligned with goals of the Committee. Some items that were shared for consideration and lessons learned are summarized below.

- Consider the use of utility box wraps, flags, and banners in higher traffic areas.
- Consider naming a new roadway or park space (example, the use of Memorial or Veteran in the name). Many comparable locations and ideas in other communities.
- Public art and wraps with connections to the military and veterans.
- Consider connecting to more recent military activations and current/younger military members.
- Look at ways to continue to connect and make the community aware of the Cenotaph and encourage the visitation to the site. There were many positive comments about the recent improvements to the site.

The review of options identified an opportunity to name a new park site that is currently unnamed within the neighbourhood of Emerald Hills. This park is mostly completed and has amenities and a playground as part of the development work that has occurred to date in the area. Further development around the park is expected to move forward soon, which would complete the park area. The site is a large park site with great amenities and has potential for future park improvements where a theme related to the recognition of veterans could be incorporated.

The park site naming options for this site that could be considered to align with Councils' direction of furthering our recognition of veterans within the community are:

- Veterans Memorial Park
- Fallen Heroes Park
- Memorial Park

Based on the feedback and further consideration of opportunities within the County to connect with Councils' desire to further recognize veterans, a list of options for consideration that could proceed within existing operating budgets is provided below.

1. Should Council support the naming of this park site, administration will start the process to have signage and a naming ceremony to take place in 2024.
2. Work within the existing Public Art Acquisition Program to have an artist create an entrance feature for the sidewalk leading up to the updated Cenotaph. This work would fall within the existing Public Art Program and would create a visible entrance feature that would further attract the community to the location and create further awareness of the Cenotaph.
3. Purchase and install the Poppy Foundation flag to raise at the community flagpole during Remembrance Day week. This item would result in ongoing annual install and replacement of the flag as needed.
4. Install traffic cabinet wraps at two locations this season as part of the 2024 Traffic Signal/Intersection Replacement Program work. The existing program will select commemorative images to install on the cabinets that are planned for the 2024 season.

The options are proposed with the use of existing programs and would provide the opportunity to further recognize veterans within our community. Should there be a desire to build or create larger-scale infrastructure, funding would be needed to take further steps.

The County has several existing feature locations and initiatives that have further connected the community with our veterans and fallen members. One area is the Peace Park, located in Broadmoor Lake Park on the north side of Festival Place. In 1992, Strathcona County was one of the 400 municipalities across Canada that dedicated a park to peace, as the National Peacekeeping Monument was being unveiled in Ottawa. Each park incorporated a 'Bosco Sacro' (Peace Grove) of 12 trees as a symbolic link with one another, and with nature, and as a symbol of hope for the future. The 12 trees are also symbolic of Canada's 10 provinces and two territories at the time. To celebrate the Peace Parks' anniversary in 2007, participating communities were invited to re-dedicate their Peace Park by planting a 13th tree to bring attention to the aspiration for peace and recognize Canada's added territory.

In addition to the Peace Park, there is also the Miok and McCormack Memorial that was completed in 2013 as a community partnership in memory of the communities' two fallen heroes.

The Community Center is also home to the Fallen Heroes Memorial Wall outside of Council Chambers. This wall is a prominent memorial that is a constant connection to all who travel through the Community Center and attend events.

### **Council and Committee History**

- March 12, 2024      THAT administration prepare a report for Councils consideration by the end of July 2024 with additional options, such as but not limited to commemorative themed wraps on utility boxes, options to highlight the existing Cenotaph, and naming opportunities, to further recognize veterans in Strathcona County.
- November 30, 2023      THAT administration provide a report by the end of March 2024 with a proposed design for a Remembrance Day crosswalk, outlining the costs and whether it can be accommodated within existing budgets, and with a recommendation for the most appropriate location, with a plan for the said crosswalk to be installed in time for Remembrance Day 2024.

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** Policy SER-008-011 Naming of Development Areas, Roads, Parks, and Public Facilities

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Financial/Budget:** The proposed options can proceed within existing operating budgets.

**Interdepartmental:** Planning and Development Services; Recreation, Parks and Culture

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a

### **Enclosure**

- 1                      Location map potential park site