

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Friday, September 9, 2022 Meeting

FROM: John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer

RE: **NAMING OF THE DAVE BARROW CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION**
Renaming of the Swan Lake Centre to the Dave Barrow Centre for Conservation

KEY ISSUE

To recognize the long-standing service of Mayor David Barrow on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Board of Directors including his efforts on acquiring the Swan Lake property by renaming the Swan Lake Centre in Richmond Hill to the Dave Barrow Centre for Conservation.

RECOMMENDATION:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT WHEREAS David Barrow has made significant contributions to the environmental and conservation community through his tenure as Mayor of Richmond Hill and as a member of TRCA's Board of Directors;

AND WHEREAS staff were directed to proceed with naming a TRCA asset in Richmond Hill after David Barrow;

AND WHEREAS AT TRCA Board of Directors meeting held on March 25, 2022 the naming of a trail in honour of Mayor David Barrow in the Jefferson Forest in Richmond Hill was approved;

AND WHEREAS it has been further proposed to rename the Swan Lake Centre in Richmond Hill the Dave Barrow Centre for Conservation;

AND WHEREAS the proposed name meets the Naming of TRCA Assets Policy in terms of the name of an individual prominent in the environmental or conservation community;

AND WHEREAS Dave Barrow, in his capacity as Mayor of Richmond Hill and member of TRCA's Board of Directors, was instrumental in the acquisition of the Swan Lake property and establishment of the Swan Lake Centre;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Swan Lake Centre be renamed the Dave Barrow Centre for Conservation;

AND FURTHER THAT the City of Richmond Hill, the Regional Municipality of York and the York Region District School Board be so advised.

BACKGROUND

The Swan Lake Centre

The Swan Lake Centre is a TRCA office and education facility located in Richmond Hill adjacent to the Oak Ridges Corridor Park East and Lake St. George Field Centre that provides for camp

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and outdoor education programs at the Swan Lake Outdoor Education Centre through a partnership with YMCA and York Region District School Board, as well as office accommodations for TRCA's archeological services team, including meeting and training space for internal and external users. The 50 acre property and former residence (now Swan Lake Centre) was acquired in July 2008 to complement and extend the natural heritage features of the Oak Ridges Moraine Corridor Park East and protect the important ecological and headwater features of the Swan Lake kettle lake and surrounding environs.

Since its acquisition and redevelopment, the Swan Lake Centre has become an important and growing location for TRCA and community partners to deliver programming to local residents, children and school groups. The partnership with the York Region District School Board was established under Section 197 of the Ontario Education Act in 2013 with the Swan Lake Outdoor Education Centre being developed within TRCA's Swan Lake Centre as a means to provide improved access to out-of-classroom learning related to natural science, conservation and the environment. Since then, TRCA and YMCA have expanded use of the facility to include summer camp programs, as well as TRCA delivered forest school, professional development and other education and training activities at the Swan Lake Centre.

Mayor David Barrow

Former City of Richmond Hill Mayor David Barrow was a long-standing representative for both the City of Richmond Hill and the Region of York. Over his 33 years as a public representative, former Mayor Barrow has worked diligently to support conservation values and further the protection of and access to the Toronto region's greenspaces. Mr. Barrow has always valued Richmond Hill as a community in which to live, work, play and learn and was actively involved in efforts beginning in the 90's to protect natural heritage features and functions in this part of Richmond Hill on the Oak Ridges Moraine in his various roles in public office.

His support of conservation values is exemplified through his over 18 years as a Board member of TRCA. During his long service as a Member of the Board of Directors, former Mayor Barrow served as a Member of TRCA's Executive Committee, and as a member of the Finance and Business Advisory Board, the Budget and Audit Advisory Board and the Business Excellence Advisory Board, including as Chair of the latter advisory board, in previous TRCA Advisory Board structures.

With TRCA, former Mayor Barrow consistently advocated for the conservation of the Oak Ridges Moraine through TRCA land acquisitions in the Oak Ridges area, including TRCA's Swan Lake property. He championed projects that supported responsible public access to the larger Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve complex, including the provincially owned Oak Ridges Corridor Park, and initiatives that improved environmental education at Lake St. George Field Centre and the Swan Lake Centre, including the partnership with York Region District School Board for the establishment of the Board-operated Swan Lake Outdoor Education Centre. Furthermore, he encouraged the integration of Richmond Hill and TRCA greenspaces, parks and trails to provide a more connected and enjoyable experience in the Oak Ridges community.

At Executive Committee Meeting, held on January 14, 2022, Resolution #B135/21 was approved as follows:

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT whereas Mayor David Barrow has served as a valued member of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Board of Directors for over 18 years;

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AND WHEREAS TRCA has a Naming of TRCA Assets Policy that established a protocol for the naming of TRCA assets;

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to proceed with naming a TRCA asset in Richmond Hill after Mayor David Barrow, in consultation with his family, and in accordance with policy.

Further to this at TRCA Board Meeting held on March 25, 2022, Resolution #A24/22 was approved as follows:

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT a looped section trail south of Bethesda Side Road and east of Bayview Avenue in the Jefferson Forest section of the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve in the City of Richmond Hill be named "David Barrow Trail";

Staff have undertaken necessary work to complete the naming of the David Barrow Trail, including consultation with Mayor Barrow's family. A recognition event is planned for September 14, 2022 to commemorate Mayor Barrow's years of public service through the dedication of this trail. Further to the naming of the trail, it has been proposed to rename the Swan Lake Centre the *Dave Barrow Centre for Conservation at Swan Lake at this event.*

RATIONALE

At Authority Meeting #9/03, held on November 28, 2003, Resolution #A255/03 was approved, which set the protocol for the naming of TRCA assets. According to the protocol, a naming may contain any or all of the following:

- the name of a major individual or corporate/public sector organization, possibly a donor;
- the name of an individual prominent in the environmental or conservation community;
- a relevant historical name associated with the geographic area or community;
- the name of a strategic initiative, a citizen's group or other partnership of TRCA; and/or
- other names that may have significance for a specific site and area.

The renaming of the Swan Lake Centre after former Mayor Barrow satisfies TRCA's condition that the name is that of an individual prominent in the environmental or conservation community. The naming of TRCA assets, however, requires the approval of the Authority. TRCA staff would like to announce the renaming of the Swan Lake Centre to the Dave Barrow Centre for Conservation at Swan Lake at the Trail Dedication Ceremony on September 14, 2022. Given Executive Committee approval, staff can make a provisional announcement pending ratification of the Board of Directors on September 23, 2022.

The David Barrow Centre for Conservation at Swan Lake reflects former Mayor Barrow's commitment to creating strong and vibrant communities in which to live, work, play and learn. Former Mayor Barrow has been an advocate of conservation efforts by the City of Richmond Hill, the Region of York, and the TRCA during his time in public service. In particular, he supported the acquisition and redevelopment of the Swan Lake property into the current Swan Lake Centre, which has rapidly become a leading education and camp centre through the establishment of Swan Lake Outdoor Education Centre, operated by York Region District School Board and the ongoing and continuing partnership with YMCA for the provision of summer camps. Additionally, the Swan Lake Centre is a satellite office for TRCA staff and is a

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key training facility for both internal and external training activities that advance and support innovation in conservation and environmental management.

In proposing the renaming of the Swan Lake Centre to the Dave Barrow Centre for Conservation at Swan Lake, TRCA consulted with the Barrow family, City of Richmond Hill Council and staff, and Region of York staff, all of whom expressed their support for the naming.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategy set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 6 – Tell the story of the Toronto region

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Costs for the production and installation of updated signs at the Swan Lake Centre is estimated to be \$1,300 to \$2,000 and will be funded through TRCA's operating budget.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Staff will notify and work with YRDSB and YMCA to update websites and other associated materials with the new name for the facility, along with updating TRCA's website and other program-related materials as appropriate. Costs associated with these updates are expected to be minimal and can be completed as part of normal operations.

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