

Section III – Items for the Information of the Board

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Friday, June 13, 2025 Meeting

FROM: John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer

**RE: UPDATE ON TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY COMMEMORATIVE ASSET AND FACILITY
NAMING POLICY**

KEY ISSUE

Status update on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Commemorative Asset and Facility Naming Policy.

RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the update on TRCA's Commemorative Asset and Facility Naming Policy be received;

AND THAT staff report back by Q3 2025 with an updated draft Policy for Board approval.

BACKGROUND

The Naming of TRCA Assets Policy (Attachment 1) was last approved by TRCA's Board of Directors on November 28, 2003, with Resolution #A255/03. The policy established a consistent process for naming assets at TRCA, including lands, structures and other physical attributes.

The policy was reviewed in 2008, with no changes recommended at that time. As the policy has not been reviewed or updated for almost 20 years, TRCA staff began a comprehensive review of the Naming of TRCA Assets Policy in early 2024.

Following TRCA's Board of Director's approval to rename Black Creek Pioneer Village to The Village at Black Creek, Resolution #37/24 was approved as follows at Board of Directors Meeting held on March 22, 2024:

WHEREAS the Naming of TRCA Assets Policy was last updated in 2003;

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AND WHEREAS the current policy can be updated to take into consideration Indigenous history, engagement efforts and to reflect TRCA's 2022 People First Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Playbook;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA's Commemorative Assets and Facility Naming Guidelines and Principles as outlined within this report, be endorsed;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff prepare an updated Commemorative Assets and Facility Naming Policy for consideration based on the endorsed guidelines and principles.

RATIONALE

TRCA occasionally receives requests to name or re-name assets (e.g., TRCA owned or managed lands, environmental features, buildings) from community organizations and municipal partners. An updated policy that reflects best practices from municipal and agency partners will provide greater guidance for staff, as they evaluate these requests compared to the current policy.

The current policy outlines that the naming of TRCA assets may contain any or all 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.

Approval for naming of assets resides with TRCA's Board of Directors and is intended to be based on a consultative process that includes researching the current and suggested names and engaging in a consultative process with interested stakeholders. The current TRCA policy directs that municipalities and other stakeholders will receive information on the naming process including the rationale, the timing of the name change and any research on the history of the name to allow for comment.

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As noted in the March 2024 report to TRCA's Board of Directors identified above, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) are fundamental to TRCA and central to the organizational mission of being the provincial leader in conserving, restoring, and managing natural resources to advance safe and sustainable development. As such, it is an ideal time to update the current policy to incorporate DEI and other current leading practices.

TRCA has been undergoing a revision process of the current Naming of TRCA Assets Policy since March 2024. The updated policy will be revised to provide a framework for naming or renaming TRCA assets, facilities and public spaces, and to ensure transparency in naming or renaming of the same. The revised policy, informed by a scan of leading practices within TRCA's jurisdiction and Ontario's Conservation Authorities, will consider the following:

- Processes established by TRCA's municipal partners to ensure consistency and alignment to the extent possible;
- A waiting period for naming assets after deceased individuals;
- Further research on the current and former names of the asset, including how and when the asset was named;
- A public notice period to allow for public engagement;
- Supporting agreements and service standards for assets named after individuals;
- Naming or renaming of conservation lands to align with mandated roles of conservation; and
- Opportunities for Indigenous names to honour significant historical sites.

Relationship to TRCA's 2023-2034 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following Pillar and Outcome set forth in TRCA's 2023-2034 Strategic Plan:

Pillar 4 Service Excellence:

4.4 Transparent decision making and accountable results

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FINANCIAL DETAILS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The scope of the review will include an environmental scan of asset naming policies and consultations with the appropriate interested parties.

TRCA staff will provide proposed revisions to the current Naming of TRCA Assets Policy to be incorporated into a Commemorative Asset and Facility Naming Policy, and report back to the Executive Committee in Q3 2025.

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Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Naming of TRCA Assets Policy (2003)