

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA**

**REPORT NO. CSD-2024-0015**

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF  
COUNCIL**

August 14, 2024

**SUBJECT: Municipal Asset Naming Proposal – Paul Higgins and Annabel Slaight  
Roches Point Community Eco Park**

---

**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. That Council receive Report No. CSD-2024-0015 prepared by the Community Service Department dated August 14, 2024, respecting Municipal Asset Naming Policy – Paul Higgins and Annabel Slaight Roches Point Community Eco Park.**
- 2. That Council adopt the proposed recommendation from the Municipal Asset Naming Review Team to rename the Roches Point Eco Park to Paul Higgins and Annabel Slaight Roches Point Community Eco Park.**

**2. PURPOSE:**

To receive Council approval of a Municipal Asset Naming request in recognition of Mr. Paul Higgins and Ms. Annabel Slaight.

**3. BACKGROUND:**

The Town donated two street naming opportunities as auction items at the Clearwater gala held in September 2022. The two auction items raised \$10,000 dollars in total for the fundraising event. Paul Higgins was the successful bidder to receive the two items. After further review, it was identified that the two street naming opportunities were not a viable option and the suggestion to rename Roches Point Eco Park was identified as a mutually beneficial option for both the Town and Paul Higgins, the successful bidder of the two auction items.

**4. ANALYSIS:**

The Municipal Asset Naming review team met to consider the request as per the policy. This request follows within the parks category of the Municipal Asset Naming policy and meets the financial contribution criteria.

Through additional conversations, staff learned that the two names to be recognized was Paul Higgins and Annabel Slaight. Further discussion resulted in a proposal to reconsider the two-street naming opportunities with a slight variation. to exchange the donation, offer of two street naming opportunities to one neighbourhood park renaming. This would allow joint recognition of both Paul and Annabel on one asset instead of two separate naming. The park suggested was the Roches Point Eco Park. Both individuals have a strong connection to Roches Point, compassion and natural tie to the environment to make this variation a positive reflection for all involved.

Paul Higgins's family have been involved with Jackson's Point since the 1920s. Paul currently has a home at Roches Point beside the Eco Park. Paul and his wife, Ursula were instrumental in engaging the community to step up and take responsibility for the dock. Together, the community has done a great job in keeping it clean and using it in a polite and respectful way. In addition, Paul has been very engaged with Clear Water Farm as a major donor and chair of the advisory board, as well as the Auctioneer for some fund-raising activity, which has led to the naming donation.

Annabel Slaight has spent summers on Lake Simcoe since childhood (in Georgina since 1964), Annabel with her husband Brian retired in 2002 to the Georgina community of Roches Point. Annabel began work to build community and help Lake Simcoe. A first project was a series of community maps and "The Georgina Book – What Citizens Value the Most". She then co-founded the Ladies of the Lake to champion the health of ailing Lake Simcoe. The famous "in the buff" calendar earned \$500,000 and helped trigger federal and provincial action plans. Ladies of the Lake morphed into the Ontario Water Centre, an educational charity, and its flagship Clearwater Farm, an educational eco farm and community asset demonstrating the benefits of living in harmony with nature. Annabel was the catalyst to have the road replaced with an Eco Park which has been a benefit to Lake Simcoe.

Both Paul and Annabel meet the criteria for consideration of this recognition based on their efforts towards improving Georgina and Lake Simcoe for many decades. Additional bio information for Paul and Annabel can be found in attachment 2.

There is currently a sign located on the fence at the entry point to the park, if Council approves the renaming of the park, staff will replace the existing sign with a new sign (attachment 3). The sign recommendation is to follow the field labelling design instead of the neighbourhood park design due to the size of the entrance to the Eco Park, both designs follow the approval corporate sign strategy.

## **5. RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:**

**Creating a vibrant, healthy, and safe community for all**

**6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

As this is a Town donation to an external fundraiser it can be covered by the current operating budget. An outline of the intended funding is included below:

1. Renaming Roches Point Eco Park:

Cost for the Crezon Sign	\$ 400.00
Materials	\$ 300.00
Labour	\$ 300.00
Total	\$1,000.00

Taxes not included

**7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:**

Public consultation is not required for this process as this was from a Town donation to a fundraiser held by the Clearwater Farms.

**8. CONCLUSION:**

The Municipal Asset Naming Review Team recommendation is that Council rename the Roches Point Eco Park to Paul Higgins and Annabel Slaight Roches Point Community Eco Park to honour the financial contribution to Clearwater Farms through the Town's donation to the silent auction.

**APPROVALS**

Prepared By: Patti White  
 Manager of Recreation Services, Community Services

Reviewed By: Jodi Pridham  
 Manager of Client & Cultural Services, Community Services

Reviewed By: Bob Ferguson  
 Manager of Parks Development and Operations  
 Community Services

Recommended By: Steve Lee-Young  
 Director of Community Services, Community Services

Recommended By: Rob Wheeler  
 Deputy CAO/ Treasurer, Office of the Deputy CAO

Approved By: Ryan Cronsberry  
CAO, Office of the CAO

***Attachments:***

Attachment 1, Data Collection  
Attachment 2, Municipal Asset Naming Policy  
Attachment 3, Draft design for the sign