

**Northwest Community Council**  
**November 25, 2010**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Northwest Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

**DATE:** November 24, 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Naming of the Sports Field in Range Park, Bedford**  
**– Bud Bremner Field**

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**ORIGIN**

Northwest Community Council and staff were approached with a request to name the HRM owned sports field at Range Park in Bedford after the area football program founder, Bud Bremner.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

- a) Northwest Community Council approve the naming of the sports field at Range Park in Bedford, “Bud Bremner Field”.

and

- b) Forward the naming to Regional Council for ratification.

## **BACKGROUND**

Halifax Regional Municipality supports commemorating individuals who have contributed to the community or to society in general. These individuals have normally contributed from a military, heritage or community perspective. Since amalgamation, HRM has recognized a number of these individuals by naming new streets, renaming existing streets, and naming municipal parks or the facilities within parks. HRM also recognizes the contributions of groups, such as veterans, immigrants or cultures, who have contributed to the community.

The area councillor and staff were approached in early August with a request to name the sports field in Range Park after Bud Bremner. At the time of the Bremner request, staff in IAM knew that there was a new policy being developed (as they were involved in the process); however, the date for the matter to go before Council had been continuously pushed back for over a year and staff continued to act under the then current processes for facility naming. Staff began working with the community on justification for the naming of this sports field and was prepared to make a presentation (along with the community) at the next Community Council meeting supporting the naming. No Northwest Community Council meeting was held in August.

On September 14, 2010, Regional Council approved a new naming policy for streets buildings parks and facilities. Under that policy, the field would not be able to be named after Mr. Bremner as an individual must be deceased for a period of time before consideration can be made. Fortunately for the community, Mr. Bremner is still very much alive. In light of the new policy, staff of BPIM and IAM have consulted with each other, the area councillor and with the proponents as to their desire to continue with the naming of the field.

As the request:

- 1) preceded approval of the new policy;
- 2) discussions were underway with the community and the family of Mr. Bremner; and
- 3) staff have no other naming requests, which were in the process of consideration prior to the adoption of the new policy;

it is staff's recommendation that this request be "grandfathered" under the former process and practices that were previously applied to the naming/renaming policy. This would entail the Northwest Community Council making a decision as to the naming upon receipt of this staff report outlining the merits of the request. However, due to the circumstances surrounding the timing of the request and the new policy adoption, that decision should be forwarded to Regional Council for ratification. This would ensure that the process for approval is transparent, respects the wishes of the community and respects the adoption of the new policy. This one time alteration would be on a "without prejudice" basis.

## **DISCUSSION**

The request to name the sports field is based on Bud Bremner's volunteer contribution to minor football for the last 40 years. As the founder of the local minor football program in Bedford, Bud Bremner has touched and continues to influence youth and parents through teaching of physical

and mental fitness, socialization, responsibility and citizenship. It is this community of present and former players and parents who have requested that the field be named after Mr. Bremner. The reasons for naming the field after Mr. Bremner are captured in the official request (see attachment A). In addition to the official request, a number of verbal stories were received by the Councillor and staff as to the impact of Mr. Bremner and his football program on youth of the area over the last four decades.

It is common to name individual facilities within a park to recognize individuals. Within Range Park, the ball fields are named after the Lenihan's who were instrumental in the baseball program in the area. A request a few years ago to rename the entirety of Range Park was denied as the name Range Park is considered a historic name related to the use of the area by the British Military as a firing range and as a social ground. However, the historic connotation of the name "Range Park" is not considered to be in direct association with the current sports field facility. Under this naming, the park itself will remain Range Park. Other than the requirement for an individual to be deceased, this request meets the principles for naming/renaming as outlined in the newly adopted policy.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are some budget implications with naming/renaming parks/fields, namely the cost of signage. Plans for signage are not completed yet but are estimated at \$2000. Budget is available in the Operating Budget W943-6399, for the cost of the sign. Budget availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The community has put forward the request and has participated with staff in justifying the naming. The naming of the field has the support of the area councillor on behalf of the larger Bedford community.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Northwest Community Council could choose not to name the sports field "Bud Bremner Field" and leave it as Range Park Field.

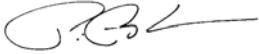
**ATTACHMENTS**

Letter from Mr. Jim Donovan requesting the naming of the field.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared & Approved by:

  
Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning (490-6047)

Financial Approval by:

  
Cathie O'Toole, CGA, Director of Finance, 490-6308

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**ATTACHMENT A**

September 14, 2010

Councilor Tim Outhit

c/o Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749, Halifax NS  
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Councilor,

You would be aware of the very well used sports field at Range Park in Bedford. I am writing that you would consider the efforts of one very dedicated community member who has contributed tirelessly to youth and sport development in the Bedford Sackville area.

For almost 40 years Buddy Bremner has been among the hardest-working and most dedicated volunteers in Bedford. During that period he created and nurtured one of the most successful minor football programs in this province.

In the early 1970's Bud decided to provide the boys of Bedford-Sackville with an opportunity to participate in tackle football, competing against other Halifax-area teams. From humble beginnings at the Lions playground on Shore Drive where he first launched a peewee team, Bud took responsibility for all aspects of the program from coaching through fundraising. Under Bud's leadership, Bedford-Sackville Minor Football has evolved into a comprehensive program featuring four age divisions, attracting children from age 7 to 16.

Over that period, Bud developed a reputation for running well-organized, disciplined and successful football teams. More importantly he encouraged youth from all backgrounds to participate in a program that offered structure, physical challenge, leadership, and fun. The kids he put through his program have all benefitted from that opportunity and carry strong memories of their experience well into adulthood.

Originally from Montreal, the Bremner family settled in Bedford following Bud's retirement from the Canadian Navy in the 1960's. Bud went on to a second career working with Farmer's Dairy while he and his wife raised their three boys: Tony, Terry, and Timmy. He has maintained those roots and continues to live in the community that he helped to shape.

What is also extraordinary about Bud is his sheer longevity. While many parents volunteer in community programs for youth, athletic and otherwise, most tend to move on to other interests after their own children's involvement has ended. Not so with Buddy. Decades after his own three boys played, he is still going strong. Like a mark of the changing seasons, every autumn Buddy Bremner can be found at the field, back for another year of football with the kids.

Councilor, I write in the hope you would consider making recommendation at Community Council to have this sports field named “Bremner Field” in acknowledgement of Bud’s 40 years of contributions to youth, football and sports programming in the community. Bud is a tremendous individual; I suggest doing so is a wonderful opportunity for us to thank him for his contributions.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Jim Donovan  
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