

11.2.1



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
March 6, 2007

TO: Mayor Peter Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

for Julia Hainscastle
Councillor David Hendsbee, Chair
Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council

DATE: February 26, 2007

SUBJECT: **Request to Name New Recreation Centre in Fall River for Former Councillor Gordon Snow**

ORIGIN

February 21, 2007 Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council.

RECOMMENDATION

Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council recommends Halifax Regional Council name the new Fall River Recreation Centre **"The Gordon Ross Snow Community Centre"**

DISCUSSION

Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council considered this matter at their February 21, 2007 meeting and approved the recommendation found above.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

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

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. Correspondence from Ms. Cheryl Newcombe, Chair, District 2 Recreation Facility Advisory Committee

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.
Report Prepared by: Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

February 12, 2007

Ms Jan Gibson
Clerk of Council
Halifax Regional Municipality
Box 1749
Halifax, N.S.
B3J 3A5

Re: District 2 Recreation Centre

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today, to bring the request of my committee, The District 2 Recreation Facility Advisory Committee, to name the new facility for our former Councillor and our greatest volunteer ever, Mr. Gordon Ross Snow. Gordon spent his entire life giving to his community and his enjoyment of that giving was evident in the ever-present gleam in his eye and the smile on his face.

My first memories of "Gordie" are of a kind man trying to persuade a misguided parking attendant to allow the seniors of the area to park a little closer to the local fair grounds, so not to have too great a distance to walk to enjoy the festivities. His efforts that day resulted in a senior's bus service, which runs even now to our Keloose Fair, some 26 years later. The kind, persuasive manner of that day was the very essence of Gordon Snow.

For years Gordie saw that those in need were not ignored, that the seniors were well looked after, and that Christmas came to everyone in our community, even those that could not afford it on their own. This kindness to neighbours in need was not restricted to Christmas though. It was often that someone's phone would ring, and Gordie would announce that there was a new family in the area, and they needed a crib or some baby things, or winter boots.

New residents in the area would watch Gordie in awe, of his exuberance, his ability to find the things that were needed NOW, and the endless energy he had for those that needed his help. Gordie taught by example, an army of volunteers in the Lakeview, Windsor Junction and Fall River area, how to get organized and get things done. Our community thrives on its volunteer base; our recreation, fire protection, and school associations have all been enriched by Gordie and by the volunteers that have followed his lead.

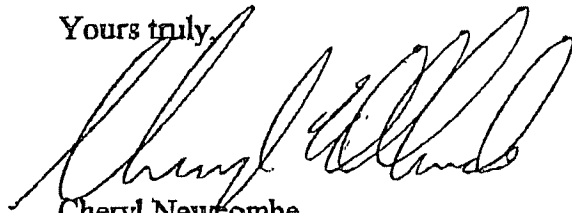
During Gordie's time as councillor at the Halifax Regional Municipality, another councillor, Sue Uteck attempted to secure funds for a gardening project at the Joseph Howe and the McKeen Manor Senior's Homes. The grounds were nothing but asphalt. Councillor Uteck was about to have a "Gordie Snow, Fall River" experience. Not only did Gordie take the time to explain what should be planted and how to prepare the sites,

when the funding fell through, he donated his time and all the plants to ensure the project was a success.

When the United Church in Windsor Junction, the site of the Community Cenotaph, was put up for sale, the war veterans were devastated that the memorial to their fallen comrades was to be destroyed. Gordie rallied a few local builders, excavation equipment, and all the big guys he could find. They took the cenotaph apart, piece-by-piece, and rebuilt it at the local school. Gordie was also a dedicated war veteran.

Gordie was a volunteer, a giver and a community leader. He enriched the lives of many, not only in our own community, but also across the whole of HRM and beyond. We the members of the District 2 Recreation Advisory Committee unanimously recommend that Halifax Regional Municipal Council and the Canal District Community Council name the new Fall River Recreation Centre, **"The Gordon Ross Snow Community Centre"**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Newcombe', written over a horizontal line.

Cheryl Newcombe
Chair
D2RFAC

Gordon Ross Snow
1933 – 2006

Gordon was born on February 16, 1933 to Ester Mae Chamberlain Snow and William Archibald Dunlop Snow on Logan Road in Windsor Junction Nova Scotia.

He was educated in Windsor Junction and Fall River.

He joined the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, First field in 1950, and fought in the Korean Conflict

Gordon married Doreen Muriel (Betty) Walker on November 9, 1957

Gordon and Betty had 4 girls:

Sandra Shirline Snow Balcom
Patti-Jane Evelyn Snow
Krista Gordina Snow
Elizabeth Doreen (Beth) Snow

He joined the merchant marines as a cook in 1953 and 1954, and then upon his return to Canada he worked in the automotive industry as a body-man, and then specialized in radiator repairs. He delivered the Queens Mail until he completed his papers as a licensed mechanic in 1958. He then joined the team at McArthur's garage.

Gordon became a County Constable in 1969 and was a Bylaw Enforcement Officer for 25 years with Halifax County until 1982 when he was elected to Halifax County as a councillor representing Windsor Junction, Fall River.

In 1958 Gordon was named Mister Generosity, for his work with the needy at Christmas. In 1959 he introduced Fall River to the Snow light show, the first year he decorated his property. Santa's Express began that year as well, and although others now run it, it has been a mainstay for Gordon's community at Christmas time providing Christmas for those who can't provide for themselves.

Gordon belonged to the Mason's CW Saunders Lodge, and became a 32-degree Master Mason. He also belonged to the Shriners, The Shriner's Scooter Patrol, the York Rite, and Scottish rite.

In 1996 Gordon was elected to the new Halifax Regional Municipal Council, and served as the Councillor for the Fall River, Waverley and Windsor Junction area for four years.

Other activities that Gordon carried out through the years were:

- Girl Guides of Canada
Pet and Gardening Badge tester
- Founder and chaperone for the Fall River Youth Group
- School Trustee for our school district
- Founder and Operator of Snow's Greenhouses Limited
- Member of the Canadian Kennel Association

Awards

Gordon was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002.