

STAFF REPORT

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG



Report to:	Mayor and Council Members	Priority:	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low
Submitted by:	Jamie Kramer, Accessibility Coordinator, Legislative Services, Corporate Services, jkramer@cobourg.ca	Meeting Type:	Open Session <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/>
Meeting Date:	August 23, 2021		
Report No.:	Corporate Services-088-21		
Submit comments to Council			

Subject/Title: (Re)Naming of the West Headlands/Pier

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the report from the Accessibility Coordinator for information purposes, and;

FURTHER THAT Council adopt the colloquial name of “The West Headlands” for the area described as the West Headlands/Pier until the Stewardship Study is completed, and;

FURTHER THAT the renaming of the entire West Headlands, Pier, and Beach area should be referred to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for further consideration at the time of completion of the Stewardship Study keeping in guidance with the Town of Cobourg’s Naming Policy and recommendations from our Indigenous community, and;

FURTHER THAT a full audit of historical names of areas in Cobourg be undertaken to ensure that we are not unintentionally impacting our Indigenous community, and;

FURTHER THAT Council consider adding funding in the 2022 budget for the entirety of the Town of Cobourg staff members, Board and Committee Members, and other volunteers to participate in Indigenous Awareness training.

1. STRATEGIC PLAN

- **PEOPLE:** The Town of Cobourg supports and cares for the Social and Physical Well-Being of its Citizens
- **PLACES:** The Town protects, preserves, and promotes its natural assets, heritage, arts, culture, and tourism.
- **PROGRAMS:** The Town provides efficient and effective corporate, community, and business and recreational services for its residents, businesses, and visitors.
- **PARTNERSHIP:** The Town engages in strong, sustainable public-private partnerships to improve the quality of life for everyone.
- **PROSPERTIY:** The Town plans for, markets, and develops assets for economic growth and financial security.

2. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The information in this report was written in collaboration with:

- Alderville First Nations;
- the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee, and;
- the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Council resolution regarding the renaming of the West Headlands and Pier after the removal of the name at the June 7th, 2021 Council meeting.

4. ORIGIN AND LEGISLATION

On June 7th, 2021, Council passed the following resolution:

THAT the delegation be received for information;

AND FURTHER THAT the reference to Hector-Louis Langevin's name in historic association and/or formal naming of the West Headlands/Pier be removed immediately;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct the Accessibility Coordinator to investigate options for renaming the West Headlands/Pier in consultation with the local Indigenous community as part of the Town's ongoing commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

5. BACKGROUND

In fall of 2017, there was a delegation from Meghan Sheffield and Nicole Beatty to Council that proposed the renaming of Cobourg's Langevin Pier, which is better known as the West Headlands. The delegation at that time described the role of Hector-Louis Langevin's role as a proponent and supporter of creating residential schools, and also included remarks from the then-Chief of Alderville, Jim Bob Marsden.

In December 2020, Council made the decision to adopt the Traditional Land Acknowledgement and incorporate it into all Council related meetings. This included all Town of Cobourg require their municipal staff, Member of Councils, and volunteers, to attend Indigenous Awareness and Understanding Training, developed by the Town of Cobourg and/or provided by the Town of Cobourg and/or comparable to the training provided by the Town of Cobourg.

In May and June 2021, the bodies of hundreds of children were found buried under residential schools in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, which caused many to revisit the names of buildings, schools, streets, and other areas.

On June 7th, 2021, Meghan Sheffield gave another delegation requesting the immediate removal of Hector-Louis Langevin's name associated with the West Headlands and Pier and to rename it in conjunction and partnership with the Indigenous community.

6. ANALYSIS

On June 24, 2021, the Accessibility Coordinator met with Chief Dave Mowat from Alderville First Nations to discuss the removal of the name from the West Headlands as well as the future of the name of the area.

He stated that the removal of the name was what Alderville wanted to see and his recommendation for a name/naming convention for the area was to call it the "West Headlands," as it was colloquially known. He noted that no one in Alderville felt a strong connection to the West Headlands area and, as such, he did not think it would be appropriate to use an Indigenous name or language to name the area. Further, he noted that he thought it would be best to not name this, or any other area, after a specific person as it can generally lead to having to go through a renaming process as we are currently seeing.

After this conversation, other cities and towns' Indigenous naming guides and processes were reviewed. These cities, working with their Indigenous communities, are working to name and rename areas that have cultural and spiritual significance to their Indigenous populations, in consultation with them

With this information in mind, the best option is to keep a colloquial name for the West Headlands for the time being while the Stewardship Study is being conducted. Once this Stewardship Study is conducted, it is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee be consulted about the future consideration of the name of the entire area as a Nature Park.

The name for this should fall within the guidelines of:

- Keeps in line with the Naming Policy for the Town of Cobourg,
- Keeps in guidance with our Indigenous community's recommendation, and;
- Highlights an important aspect of Cobourg's heritage, culture, and natural conservation.

During the course of this conversation and understanding, other areas in Cobourg were pointed out to be named after other historical figures that played a significant impact in residential schools or other historical events that impacted marginalized communities in a negative way.

As such, it is recommended that a full audit of all areas in Cobourg be conducted and the removal of these names, plaques, and other signage attributed to these figures be done as soon as possible. These areas can be renamed through public consultation using the same guidelines as renaming the West Headlands.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/BUDGET IMPACTS

There are currently no anticipated financial or budgetary impacts. If there are costs associated with updating maps, historical information, etc., Staff will bring these costs forward to Council if they exceed the budget for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for 2021.

It is requested that there be consideration to continue the education around Indigenous education and awareness for all staff members, Board and Committee members, and all volunteers to continue our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. This request will be brought forward during the deliberations for the 2022 Council budget.

8. CONCLUSION

In continuing our equity, diversity, and inclusion journey, as well as our path towards Truth and Reconciliation, it is essential to continue learning and educating ourselves and our community on these issues.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Report from the Audit Committee – 2020 Financial Statements
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 13, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Brent Larmer, Municipal Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services- Aug 12, 2021 - 1:08 PM

Tracey Vaughan, Chief Administrative Officer - Aug 13, 2021 - 4:31 PM