



Councillor Paul Ainslie
Toronto City Council
Scarborough East - Ward 43

Chair, Scarborough Community Council
Chair, Government Management Committee

Date: June 9, 2011
To: City Parks and Environment Committee
From: Councillor Paul Ainslie
Re: Coronation Park

Coronation Park sits directly south of Fort York. The City Park supports a plaque stating that it is the approximate site of the second American attack on Fort York in 1813. The site then being a body of water emerged approximately one hundred years later to form Coronation Park, Fleet Street and Lakeshore Boulevard. In 1935 a sea wall was built which still exists today to level out the land laying the path for the creation of Coronation Park some years later.

Coronation Park was given its name in commemoration of the crowning of a new King after the death of King George V in 1936. The Park became a beacon for Veterans of WWI, who in partnership with the City created a park lined with trees, a war memorial, a Royal oak tree as a memorial to King George VI encircled by Maple trees to symbolize Canadians who fought in WWI, a circle of seven Maple trees symbolize parts of the British Empire. A number of other trees were planted in Coronation Park to honour those who fought in subsequent wars.

At the base of these trees sit granite or brass plaques naming the unit which the tree symbolizes.

Today the park is in need of repair. It is no longer a shining monument to those who fought in WWI, WWII and the many wars which followed.

As the 100th year anniversary of WWI approaches, it would be fitting for the City of Toronto to enter into a private public partnership to rejuvenate Coronation Park so that we may in 2014 stand in Coronation Park to remember those who fought for us.

Recommendations:

1. That the City Parks and Environment Committee recommend Toronto City Council request Parks Forestry and Recreation to enter into consultations with the Dominion Institute, Legions, Friends of Fort York and Heritage Toronto to develop a strategy to rejuvenate Coronation Park.
2. Toronto City Council request the City of Toronto's Partnership Office work with Parks Forestry and Recreation, the Dominion Institute, Legions, Friends of Fort York and Heritage Toronto to search for a public sector partner to enter into a Private Public Partnership with the City of Toronto to ready the Coronation Park for the 100th anniversary of WWI in 2014.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Scarborough East Ward 43

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