

REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: May 1, 2025

FROM: Legal Department

Parks and Open Space Department

DATE: April 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Chris Vokes Memorial Park Lease Extension

LOCATION: 2500 Lakeshore Road West

WARD: Ward 1

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RECOMMENDATION:

That staff be authorized to renew the lease with the Province for the Chris Vokes Memorial Park, and the Director of Parks and Open Space be authorized to execute any required documentation including any renewals or minor amendments to this agreement.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Chris Vokes Memorial Park is located at 2500 Lakeshore Road West
- A portion of this park is on Provincially owned land.
- This land has been leased from the Province since 1980 and the current lease expires on September 30, 2025.
- The Province has offered to renew the lease for an additional 5 years.
- Parks staff support the extension of the lease to continue using the lands for park purposes.

BACKGROUND:

The Chris Vokes Memorial Park located at 2500 Lakeshore Road West is located partially on Town land and partially on Provincially owned land. Appendix A shows the area owned by the Province and leased to the Town. The Town has leased this land since 1980 and the park contains the Bronte cenotaph, lighting, benches and horticultural display gardens. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 486 located in Bronte annually hold Remembrance Day ceremonies at Chris Vokes Memorial Park.

The current lease is set to expire on September 30, 2025 and the Province has offered to extend the lease for an additional 5 years.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Parks staff are supportive of extending the lease for the additional five years so the land can continue to be used for park purposes. The proposed rent for the five-year term is set by the Province at \$3,809.30 per annum plus sales tax, with annual escalations the greater of CPI or 3% to be applied year over year throughout the term. This rent represents an inflationary increase from the rent under the previous lease agreement. The form of lease will be the standard form Provincial lease.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The inclusion of this report in the public Council agenda will provide public notification.

(B) FINANCIAL

The rental increase is consistent with an inflationary increase and is within the Parks and Open Space operating budget.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

This report was prepared jointly by Legal and Parks department staff.

(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to be the most livable town in Canada.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

N/A

APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Map showing the leased area

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