

246 Rockwell Drive
Mount Uniacke, NS B0N 1Z0

5 July 2017

Chief Administration Officer Connie Nolan
Municipality of East Hants
15 Commercial St.
Elmsdale, NS B2S 3K5

Subject: Municipal Council Approval for Pte, John Curwin Memorial at Mount Uniacke

Dear Ms. Nolan;

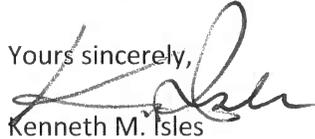
The following documents are enclosed for your perusal and necessary administrative action.

- A. Submission by Kenneth M. Isles dated July 4, 2017, together with four in number attachments containing six pages.

The enclosed documents will reveal a serious lack of communications among municipal representatives, small community groups and dedicated Mount Uniacke citizens.

A written response , together with recommendations for corrective action, would be very much appreciated. at an early date.

Yours sincerely,



Kenneth M. Isles

Copies to: MLA Honourable Margaret Miller

Ms. Rhonda Walker
Director, Archive, Museums & Libraries
Province of Nova Scotia

Memorial for Pte. John Curwin.

Dated July 4, 2017

Twelve months have passed since the presentation was made to Hants East Municipal Council, by Kenneth Isles, Past Present of Uniacke Heritage Society, requesting that Municipal Council provide recommendations and administrative support for the dedication of the Uniacke Picnic Park as the Pte. John Michael Curwin Memorial Park. Copy of the presentation is attached as Enclosure A.

Kate Friars, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, held a brief discussion with Ken Isles following the presentation to Council. Ken provided information about memorials for military casualties, including the park in Dartmouth, named in memory of Petty Officer Douglas Blake.

A document, pertaining to the presentation to Municipal Council and the course of action for the development of the memorial, was provided by Kate Friars and is attached as Enclosure B.

Considering that no visible progress was achieved towards the proposed memorial during the later months of 2016, meetings were held during February and March 2017 in Mount Uniacke with Curwin family members, District Nine Councilor Elie Moussa and other residents in attendance. A copy of the minutes for one meeting is attached as Enclosure C.

Councillor Mossa spoke of his association with John Curwin and family during past years and agreed to work with the municipality in an effort to *"put the wheels in motion"* for the Curwin memorial.

In view of the fact that there has been no visible progress made since February, it seems that a serious lack of communications and cooperation exist between the Municipal administration, Municipal representatives, Nova Scotia Museum officials and the Hants East MLA.

A brief history of the Uniacke Picnic Park, relates back to the era when two female descendants of Richard John Uniacke, known as the Murphy sisters, operated a tea room on the existing Picnic Park site that prompted the naming the adjacent body of water as "Murphy Lake". This site was later developed into a roadside rest area under the administration of the Department of Highways and Public Works. It contained a well, septic reservoir, lavatories and stop-over convenience for travelling motorists, local groups for picnics and other recreational needs. It was considered a popular tourist and community asset.

A major renovation of this site was carried out during the installation of the Murphy Lake Trail in 2000 and 2001. The Uniacke Estate Manager provided a written report outlining and commending the work carried out by local volunteers and inmates from the Provincial Correctional institutions of Lower Sackville. A large volume of household debris, excessive underbrush and unsightly trees were removed from the property. A roadway was installed from the Picnic Park's gated entrance at Highway One, to the Murphy Lake Trail for the removal of debris and the transportation of equipment for the maintenance of the Murphy Lake Trail and wooded area of the picnic park.. Enclosure D includes a the aforementioned document and three photographs.

A small number of adults, known locally as the Uniacke Ratepayer Association, arranged for the installation of playground equipment within the renovated picnic park and in so doing, they blocked off the roadway to the Murphy Lake Trail with large boulders thus preventing the conveyance of equipment and materials for the maintenance of Murphy Lake Trail and the wooded area within the Picnic Park. This installation was carried out without any consultation with the prominent community group, registered as Uniacke Heritage Society, which had organized and managed the installation of the Murphy Lake Trail

Presentation to East Hants Municipal Council- April 19, 2016

The Uniacke Heritage Society received a message In September 2008 from Pte John Curwin requesting a Uniacke or a Nova Scotia flag for his barracks in Afghanistan.

Representatives from Uniacke community associations consulted Provincial official. All associates supported the initiative. A Uniacke Flag and a Provincial Flag, together with a message signed by the Premier, were forwarded to Pte. Curwin through Canadian Forces Services

Photos of the Uniacke Flags displayed at the Canadian Forces Barracks in Afghanistan were conveyed to Uniacke Heritage Society in November 2008 (see attached photos)

A few weeks later, word was received that Pte. John Curwin was killed 13 December 2008, whilst on patrol in Afghanistan. The remains were returned to Canada and a memorial service was held in Middle Sackville. (see attached photos)

Shortly thereafter, community groups expressed a desire to have a special memorial for Pte. John Curwin, who had a deep devotion for his home community. It was learned and discussed that a recreation park in Dartmouth was being named as a memorial for Petty Officer Craig Blake, and a Halifax Harbour Ferry and a Canadian Coast Guard Ship were named after Afghanistan military casualties. After many conversations, it was decided that the Uniacke Picnic Park should be designated as a memorial for Pre. Curwin

The Uniacke Picnic Park is an icon within Mount Uniacke. It was the site of a dining facility by descendants of Richard John Uniacke for many years and Murphy Lake was named after that family. It became a roadside rest and recreation stop-over for visitors along the historic Evangeline Trail. The site contained a well, septic facilities and toilets whilst under the authority of N.S. Public Works . (See plot plan and photo of Church picnic participants)

The Uniacke Picnic Park was included in a restoration program during the years 2000 and 2001. The Murphy Lake Trail was installed through the Park under terms of approval by Nova Scotian Museum, Dept. of Environment and Dept of Natural Resources. Unsightly shrubs, underbrush and debris were removed from the site by community volunteers. These included inmate volunteers from the Sackville Correction Centre and three local Korean war veterans. The Uniacke Community Park has been maintained by community volunteers for decades.

Representatives from community groups held meetings with provincial authorities to obtain approval for the naming of the tradition picnic park as a memorial for Pte. John Curwin. Little progress was made due to the numerous staff changes within the Provincial government. Recent meeting with Provincial officials suggested that East Hants Municipal Council should be consulted for consideration due to the fact that this Municipality obtained a Ten-Year Lease for the Picnic Park in 2007.

It is therefore requested that Municipal Council provide recommendations and administrative support for the dedication of the Uniacke Picnic Park as The Pte, John Michael Roy Curwin Memorial Park.

DATE B?
B

Cc: Evan MacDougall

Subject: Naming Uniacke Park and Memorial.

Ken,

At the Council Meeting Wednesday evening Council passed the following motion:

Request to name Uniacke Picnic Park in Memorial to Private John Curwin

10) On the motion of Councillors Roulston and Bland: [0:20]

Moved that Council move forward with the renaming of the Uniacke Picnic Park, in consultation with Staff and the Uniacke Rate Payers Association, to The Private John Michael Roy Curwin Memorial Park.

Eleven (11) voting in favor. Two (2) voting against. Deputy Warden McDonald and Councillor John A. MacDonald voting nay.

MOTION CARRIED

As a follow up to this, can you please provide us with a site plan showing where your group would like to install the memorial and drawing of proposed memorial to Private John Michael Roy Curwin. We have viewed the memorial you described in Dartmouth. We would also need a timeline for construction. This information will be required for a consultation with the remaining members of the Uniacke Ratepayers Association. This will be coordinated thru our offices. Please work with Evan MacDougall (cc above) as your plans evolve.

Thanks you.

Kate

Kate Friars, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Municipality of East Hants

(902) 883-7098 x 143

www.easthants.ca



Meeting Feb 6/17 7 PM RCL #165 Mount Uniacke
Private John Curwin Proposed Dedication of
Picnic Park

C

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

Attendance: Chris Erwood; Councilor Elie Moussa; Danita Curwin; Shana Lynch; Sara Lynch; Ken Isles; Barbara Isles; Josh Curwin; Terri Curwin; Rosanne Bland; John Bland, Grant Hogan. Email addresses secured for all present at the meeting.

Ken introduced himself and advised how he got involved in this proposed dedication re: request for Uniacke Flag and NS flag by Private Curwin who was stationed in Afghanistan.

Ken explained history of picnic park – Murphy sisters ran as a “picnic” stop / extension of the Uniacke Estate

- Taken over by DOT along with surrounding area and used as a picnic stop by travelers along the Evangeline Trail
- Murphy Trail was built by prisoners from the Correctional Centre under the Mount Uniacke Heritage Association
- Has always been known as the “picnic park” but now it is time to give the “picnic park” a name and members of this group want to give the picnic park a name and dedicate to honour Private John Curwin
- Family members present at this meeting shared with the group that the last spot where John spent his time in Mount Uniacke was at the picnic park after his brother’s wedding – then he went overseas. This makes the perfect location for dedication to Private John Curwin.
- It was also shared with the group that John was married at Uniacke House
- People present agreed that we have to organize something ASAP to get the picnic park re-named and dedicated
- The municipality will be contacted by Councilor Moussa regarding this proposal to “put the wheels in motion”
- Discussion of possible contact with Scott Brison, Chuck Porter, Margaret Miller as well as the municipality re: meeting held with future meetings on the horizon to proceed with the dedication / renaming of the Mount Uniacke Picnic Park.
- Danita Curwin, mother of John Curwin and Josh Curwin, advises that she is willing to speak to Kate Friars at the municipality regarding this dedication
- Craig Blake Memorial Park was discussed re: plaque and entrance to park

Next meeting at the Legion 7PM March 1/17

Please note the minutes are being sent to all persons present at the meeting who shared their email addresses with us.
Note: Grant Hogan does not have an email address. Minutes of the meeting will be hand delivered to him.

Ken Isles

From: Alex Middleton [middlea@gov.ns.ca]
Sent: November 7, 2001 11:48 AM
To: Ken.Isles@ns.sympatico.ca
Cc: lgmbooks@accesswave.ca; Deborah Trask
Subject: community picnic park

Ken:

Congratulations on the work that the Heritage Society has done on the Community Picnic Park. Clearing the underbrush and thinning the trees should go a long way toward curbing vandalism and opening the area up to visitors. This park is an asset, situated right in the village it offers an area for community involvement and recreation that will enhance the village as time goes on.

I know that you have received an email from Marian Munro at the Museum of Natural History that indicates the important species of trees that are growing in the park and it is possible that we may be able to work together toward putting identification labels or plaques on some of these years. As you're well aware money for projects like this will be difficult to find with the current economic situation, but if you can put together a proposal, we can at least see where you're planning to go.

Once again, congratulations on your project.
Alex Middleton
Uniacke Estate Museum Park

UNIACKE PICNIC PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2001

—Preserving our Heritage for an Active Living and Healthy Environment—

The Year 2001 Picnic Park Improvement Project involves the removal of undergrowth and waste materials to nurture the health and safety of native trees, floral growth, wildlife and humanity. The project includes nature trails and an interpretative link with Murphy Lake.

This project is being carried out by the Uniacke Heritage Society in partnership with the Uniacke Museum Park in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources and assistance from community volunteers and the Halifax Correctional Centre Inmate Volunteer Work Program.. Financial assistance provided by Nova Scotia Go for Green Committee.





PHOTO 3- Uniacke Community Park showing clear view to Murphy Lake after removal of Undergrowth. September/October 2001.



PHOTO 4 - Uniacke Community Park showing chips placed on trail from picnic area to Murphy Lake. Note brush piled along trail prior to being chipped for distribution over path.