



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Council

File No.: 6140-220

From: Director of Recreation, Culture, and Community Services

Date: July 12, 2023

Subject: Renaming 150 Year Grove to Stan Hagen Nature Park

PURPOSE:

To update Council on the renaming of the 150 Year Grove to Stan Hagen Nature Park.

BACKGROUND:

At the May 17, 2010 in camera Council Meeting, Council resolved the following:

"That the City park property bordering Lerwick, Malahat and Crown Isle Drive previously referred to as "150 Year Heritage Grove" be named and dedicated "Stan Hagen Nature Park."

The 150 Year Heritage Grove project was a provincially funded project to turn a barren piece of property into a long-term forest legacy for the residents of Courtenay and the Comox Valley. The Province of BC contributed \$50,000 through its Trees for Tomorrow program as part of the Province's 150 Year celebrations, and this was matched by the City of Courtenay. Many community groups and organizations including school groups, service clubs, stewardship groups, businesses and neighbourhood volunteers assisted in the initial planting of over 3,000 trees.

Stan Hagen was an influential community leader in the Comox Valley, including being the founding president of the Comox Valley Community Foundation. Stan also served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Comox Valley from 1986 to 1991 and 2001 to 2009 where he led ten Cabinet portfolios. Stan Hagen was honoured as a Comox Valley Walk of Achievement Inductee (posthumously on August 22, 2009) for his significant and lasting contributions. A summary of his achievements is found in Attachment 1.

After his passing in January 2009, Council resolved to rename the park located at 1251 Crown Isle Drive to Stan Hagen Nature Park as a tribute and honour to his role as a community leader.

DISCUSSION:

The May 13, 2010 staff report to Council indicated that the 1.79 hectare property would include thousands of native shrubs, trees, and ground cover, including Pacific dogwood, Big Leaf maple, arbutus and Grand fir, plus a Garry Oak meadow. There are two trails in the park and native dogwood trees were planted to represent the ten provincial ministries that Stan Hagen served. Please see Attachment 2: 150 Year Grove Park. As per the staff report, a permanent sign or plaque will be installed at the park, and the City is planning a dedication ceremony in conjunction with the Hagen family.

The 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies the need for a park management plan for this nature park. Originally, staff felt it would be best to hold off proceeding with the ceremony until further park

planning could be carried out however staff have determined that the dedication ceremony and signage installation could proceed ahead of any future park planning. Any future park planning would be minimal given the park's status as a nature park.

Staff recently met with the late Mr. Hagen's wife, Judy Hagen, to discuss moving forward with announcing the park renaming as well as a dedication ceremony. Judy Hagen has requested the event proceed this August 2023 when her family is available to attend.

Judy Hagen has requested the K'ómoks First Nation be asked if they would like to be a part of the dedication ceremony. K'ómoks First Nation honoured Stan Hagen with the name Tl'axwsam (which translates to Red Cod) in 2007 and Judy Hagen has indicated the importance of extending an invitation to K'ómoks First Nation. A letter will be sent to K'ómoks First Nation asking if and how they would like to collaborate or participate in the dedication ceremony and naming of the park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funds from the 2023 operating budget will cover the cost of the fabrication and installation of the signage and dedication ceremony event costs.

NEXT STEPS:

Staff will continue to consult and involve the Hagen family in the dedication ceremony planning leading up to the event. An event date will be confirmed with the Hagen family and shared with Council.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT Council receive the "Renaming 150 Year Grove to Stan Hagen Nature Park" briefing note.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Excerpts from Comox Valley Walk of Achievement: The Honourable Stanley B. Hagen
2. 150 Year Grove Park

Prepared by: Joy Chan, Manager of Business Administration
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Reviewed by: Susie Saunders, Director of Recreation, Culture, and Community Services

Concurrence: Geoff Garbutt, M.P.I., MCIP, RPP, City Manager (CAO)

ATTACHMENT 1: Excerpts from Comox Valley Walk of Achievement: The Honourable Stanley B. Hagen¹**The Honourable Stanley B. Hagen**

MLA Comox Riding, Cabinet Minister

Inducted: August 22, 2009

Being inducted into the Comox Valley Walk of Achievement would have pleased the late Honourable Stanley B. Hagen. It shows that the local community appreciated the work he accomplished in his 13 years in provincial government.

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The Hagen family moved to the Comox Valley in 1968. Stan became active in the community sitting on the Courtenay Advisory Planning Commission and served as Coordinator of Big Brothers. He first entered local politics in November, 1972 being elected as a School Board Trustee. He served on the Board of School District 71 for six years and served as Board Chairman. ...

The Honourable Stanley B. Hagen was the MLA for the Comox Riding (1986-1991) (2001-2009). Hagen served the citizens of British Columbia in ten Cabinet Portfolios

- Minister of Agriculture and Lands
- Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts
- Minister of Children and Family Development
- Minister of Human Resources
- Minister of Sustainable Resource Management
- Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
- Minister of Advanced Education, Job Training, Science & Technology
- Minister of Regional and Economic Development
- Minister of Education
- Minister of State for the Vancouver Island / Coast Region

Additional positions, achievements and honours include:

- West Coast Chairman of MILAP Programme
- VIA Rail Board of Directors
- Canada's Representative for the KAON Project
- Honourary Doctorate of Law Degree (SFU)
- Canadian Advanced Technology Association Award of Distinction
- Friend of Science World
- Paul Harris Fellow
- "Ti' axwsam" (Red Cod) K'omoks First Nation name
- Button Blanket presented by the Weiwaikum People

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¹ [Comox Valley Walk of Achievement honours Stanley B. Hagen](#)

The Central Coast Land Resource Management Plan was Stan's greatest achievement. He guided an innovative consensus-based resource land use plan that balanced the interests of industry, the First Nations and conservationists. This laid the foundation for the creation of 24 new conservancies protecting over 500,000 hectares of land including the home of the Spirit Bear.

He was given the name Tl'axwsam (Red Cod) by the K'omoks First Nation. Nanawakolas Council President Dallas Smith said Hagen was one of the first BC Cabinet Ministers to embrace First Nations. In fact, a voicemail message from Dallas that Stan never heard before his sudden death was, "What you have done for our people will last an eternity."

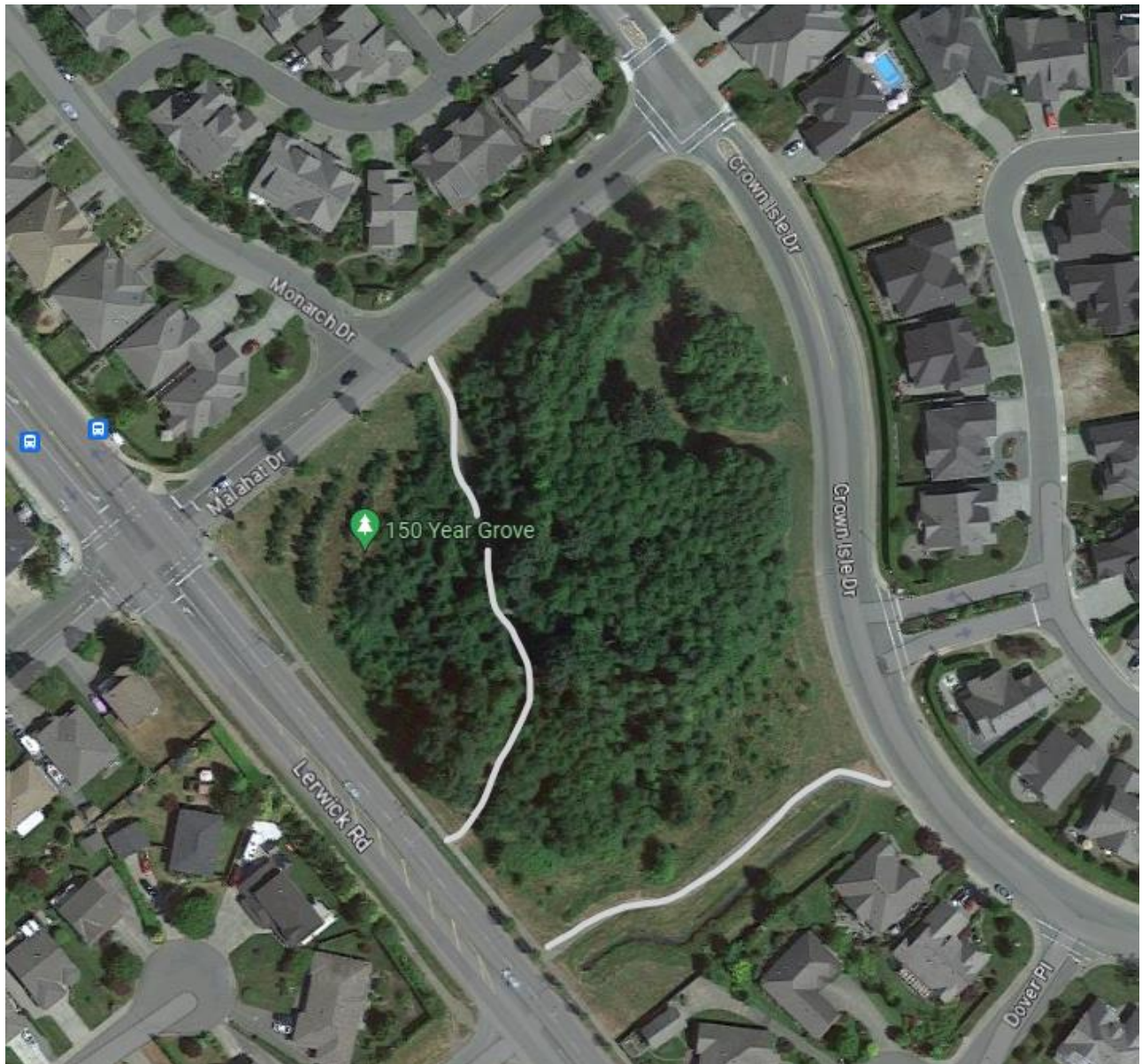
Always a consensus builder, working with the Ministry of Advanced Education he cancelled the Advisory Board and worked with the University Presidents by asking for their input. He established the Matching Funds Program.

He was an advocate for science and technology, particularly the KAON project and the TRIUMF Facility; he understood the economic importance of research to BC and to Canada. He championed Science World. Stan established the Passport to Education and the Scientist in the Schools Programme.

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Hagen began the process that created the University of Northern BC and extended degree status to three BC Colleges.

Attachment 2: 150 Year Grove Park²



² [150 Year Grove - Google Maps](#)