

Executive Summary

The City of Greater Sudbury (City) has a long and rich tradition of producing athletes who have performed at the highest stage of sport. Recently, athletes hailing from Greater Sudbury won medals at the 2018 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games held in PyeongChang, South Korea.

Council has directed staff to recognize Olympic and Paralympic athletes by naming and identifying meaningful training facilities within City amenities.

This report recommends recognition of four individuals who have won Olympic or Paralympic medals in the past decade and provides a framework to determine recognition of other Olympic and Paralympic participants moving forward.

Background

At the June 26, 2018 City Council meeting, the following notice of motion was presented and carried:

WHEREAS Greater Sudbury boasts a great number of tremendously talented athletes who have earned medals for their accomplishments in Olympic and Paralympic Games;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury has no formal policy to recognize these athletes;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury's Building, Property and Park Naming Policy allows for the naming of facility elements such as ice pads, trails, gymnasiums, etc.;

AND WHEREAS naming facility elements will not only recognize their hard work, dedication and talent, but also serve to enhance community pride and youth encouragement in sport;

AND WHEREAS the City of Greater Sudbury would like to formally recognize those athletes that the public has identified as hailing from the City of Greater Sudbury;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury would identify those athletes who have received medals in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and work with City staff to officially recognize the athletes by naming and identifying meaningful training facilities within City of Greater Sudbury amenities, based on the athlete and type of sport.

Building, Property and Park Naming Policy

The City has an established Building, Property and Park Naming Policy (By-Law 2012-256). The policy recognizes the importance of naming and renaming of interior spaces, portions or elements of municipal buildings, parks and municipal properties for public awareness, promotion and recognition. Honorific naming is permitted under the policy for recognition of a group or individual's outstanding accomplishments, involvement or work in the community.

The policy provides for the ability to name or rename indoor building features (meeting rooms, dressing rooms, corridors, squares, fountains and more) or parks (as well as walkways, gazebos, etc.).

The following naming principles and priorities are included with the Building, Property and Park Naming Policy:

- Names must not be duplicated or so similar that they create confusion in emergency response situations.
- Names may place the element of the building, property or park in geographical context to reflect significant ecological or natural resource features.
- Names may reflect the purpose or use of the element within the building, property or park.
- Names convey a sense of place and community and celebrate the distinguishing characteristics of the neighbourhood or community.
- Names are understandable, recognizable and explainable to citizens and respect the values in regards to history, heritage and culture of the neighbourhood or community.
- Names reflect an individual or organization's significant contributions to public life in general.
- Names reflect an individual or organization with such extraordinary prominence and lasting distinction that no other individuals, families or organizations can come forward and suggest alternatives.

Additional Considerations for Athlete Recognition

The City reached out to Randy Pascal, Greater Sudbury SportLink Executive Director, local sports journalist and owner/operator of SudburySports.com to gain further insight into athlete recognition. Mr. Pascal is also an active member of the Greater Sudbury Sports Hall of Fame organization. Through meetings, it was determined that the City should also consider the following when recognizing athlete accomplishments:

- How to identify a significant Greater Sudbury connection? Otherwise put, what exactly constitutes a Greater Sudbury Olympian or Paralympian?
- How do we value relative athletic accomplishment?
- What forms of recognition are most appreciated and valued by athletes and the community?

Using the direction from Council to recognize medalists from Olympic and Paralympic Games by naming meaningful training facilities as well as the Building, Property and Park Naming Policy and considerations for recognizing athletes, the following framework has been developed to guide decisions on recognition of Greater Sudbury Olympian and Paralympic participants.

Establishing a Greater Sudbury Connection

- Individuals born and raised in Greater Sudbury are to be considered.
- Individuals who spent the bulk of their youth or formative years training/participating in Greater Sudbury may be considered.
- Demonstrated contact with Greater Sudbury throughout their sport involvement and post-athletic career.

Determining Athletic Accomplishment

- Individuals who have won an Olympic or Paralympic medal representing Team Canada are considered.
- Individuals who have attained a high level of excellence in Olympic and Paralympic competitions and brought recognition to Greater Sudbury may also be considered.
- Coaches, officials and volunteers with significant Olympic and Paralympic contributions may be considered.
- The City will engage an ad hoc group of knowledgeable individuals from local sports media, Hall of Fame committee, etc. to review the merits and accomplishments of individuals.

Forms of Recognition

- The City's Building, Property and Park Naming Policy is to be used as a guideline for recognizing individuals.
- The recognized individuals and their families are to be consulted on the most appropriate form of recognition.
- In some instances, multiple individuals may be recognized at the same facility.

Olympic and Paralympic Medalist Recognition

In the last decade, four individuals from Greater Sudbury have brought our community international recognition with medal wins at Olympic and Paralympic Games:

Tessa Bonhomme, Ice Hockey

- Gold Medalist, 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics

Tessa Bonhomme made her Olympic debut at Vancouver 2010 where she helped Canada win a third straight gold medal. In 2013 she competed at her fifth IIHF World Women's Championship, winning the silver medal. Bonhomme had previously won gold in 2007 and 2012 along with silver in 2009 and 2011. Tessa also played collegiately at Ohio State University, dominating the NCAA throughout her four years playing for the Buckeyes. Tessa is a reporter and anchor for TSN Sportcentre. A Sudbury Lady Wolves alumna, Tessa recently supported the 2019 Esso Cup in Greater Sudbury.

Colin Cameron, Para Nordic Skiing

- 3-time Bronze Medalist, 2018 PyeongChang Winter Paralympics

Collin Cameron won three bronze medals in his Paralympic Games debut in 2018. He was third in the 7.5 kilometre and 15 kilometre in the biathlon and helped Canada to third in the open cross-country relay. Cameron delivered another triple medal performance at the 2019 World Para Nordic Skiing Championships. He won gold in the cross-country men's sitting sprint, a silver in the biathlon men's sitting middle-distance, and won another silver medal in the mixed relay. Colin was a member of the Northern Sliders Sledge Hockey group and has been supporting and promoting development at Kivi Park and their efforts to establish an accessible training facility.

Meagan Duhamel, Figure Skating

- Gold Medalist (Team), 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics
- Bronze Medalist (Pairs), 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics
- Silver Medalist (Team), 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics

Meagan Duhamel won two medals with partner Eric Radford at PyeongChang 2018, helping Canada win gold in the team event followed by a bronze medal in the pairs event. Duhamel and Radford won back-to-back world titles in 2015 and 2016, making them the first Canadian pair to successfully defend their world gold medal since 1960. Their first world title capped an undefeated season that included wins at both of their Grand Prix events, the Grand Prix Final and the Four Continents Championships.

Duhamel and Radford had previously won bronze medals at the 2013 and 2014 World Championships, the latter coming after they had helped Canada win silver in the inaugural Olympic team event in Sochi. Meagan continues to contribute locally and has hosted and participated in many skating seminars for local athletes, helping develop competitive skating in Greater Sudbury.

Rebecca Johnston, Ice Hockey

- Silver Medalist, 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics
- Gold Medalist, 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics
- Gold Medalist, 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics

A member of Canada's National Women's Team since 2007, Rebecca Johnston has competed at eight IIHF Women's World Championships as well as three Olympic Winter Games, helping Canada win gold at Vancouver 2010 and Sochi 2014 as well as a silver at PyeongChang 2018 where she was among the team's leading scorers.

Johnston's collegiate career took her to Cornell University. In 2007-08 she was the Ivy League Rookie of the Year. As a sophomore she was a top-10 finalist for the Patty Kazmaier Award as the top female player in NCAA hockey. After spending 2009-10 centralized with the national team, she returned to school and led Cornell to the NCAA Frozen Four and was a top-10 finalist for the Patty Kazmaier Award in both 2010-11 and 2011-12. After graduation Johnston was drafted by the Toronto Furries of the CWHL and led them to the Clarkson Cup playoffs in 2012-13. The following season she began playing with the Calgary Inferno and led the league in scoring to win the Angela James Bowl and CWHL MVP. Johnston and the Inferno won the Clarkson Cup in the 2015-2016 season. Rebecca continues to inspire local hockey players, recently supporting the Esso Cup held in Greater Sudbury.

Recommended Olympian and Paralympian Recognition

It is recommended that the four Olympic/Paralympic medalists from the past decade be the initial athletes recognized for their achievements. After consulting the athletes and their families, it is recommended that the following naming of facilities be implemented to recognize their outstanding accomplishments:

- The Tessa Bonhomme Outdoor Rink at Cedar Park Playground
- The Meagan Duhamel Ice Pad at TM Davies Community Centre/Arena
- The Rebecca Johnston Ice Pad at Gerry McCrory Countryside Sports Complex (Ice pad #1)

The City has also worked with Kivi Park organizers who will be naming a trail in honour of Collin Cameron. As Kivi Park has been identified as Ontario's first training centre for Para-Nordic athletes, Mr. Cameron has indicated his interest to be recognized at Kivi.

Next Steps

Additional Olympic and Paralympic medalists and participants with Greater Sudbury connections will be reviewed with an ad hoc group from the local sports community to determine appropriate recognition and naming opportunities utilizing the framework developed. Naming recommendations will form part of future report(s) to the Community Services Committee.

The City will develop a branding program to be displayed at identified facilities that will celebrate the accomplishments of Greater Sudbury Olympic and Paralympic participants.

The City will coordinate naming celebrations with the four Olympian/Paralympians identified in this report.

References

Meeting Minutes of the June 26, 2018 City Council Meeting

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=1243&minutes=1>

City of Greater Sudbury Building, Property and Park Naming Policy

<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/play/parks-and-playgrounds1/name-a-building-property-or-park/>

Tessa Bonhomme, Canadian Olympic Team Official Website

<https://olympic.ca/team-canada/tessa-bonhomme/>

Colin Cameron Bio, Canadian Paralympic Committee Official Website
<https://paralympic.ca/team-canada/collin-cameron>

Meagan Duhamel Bio, Canadian Olympic Team Official Website
<https://olympic.ca/team-canada/meagan-duhamel/>

Rebecca Johnston Bio, Canadian Olympic Team Official Website
<https://olympic.ca/team-canada/rebecca-johnston/>