

To: Economic and Development Services Committee

From: Warren Munro, HBA, MCIP, RPP, Commissioner,
Economic and Development Services Department

Report Number: ED-23-170

Date of Report: September 6, 2023

Date of Meeting: September 11, 2023

Subject: Proposal to Rename Ortono Avenue

Ward: Ward 5

File: 12-12-4031

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to respond to the following May 1, 2023 Oshawa City Council direction:

“Whereas, Plan 167, a registered plan of subdivision in the City of Oshawa was registered in February of 1913 with the street names Park Avenue, Lakeview Avenue, Birch Avenue, and Russell Avenue, amongst others; and,

Whereas, following the conclusion of the Second World War and the construction of Highway 401, several streets were closed and other streets were renamed in honour of Second World War battles such as Normandy, Dunkirk and Dieppe; and,

Whereas, there is a street named Ortono Avenue located south of Highway 401 and west of Wilson Road South; and,

Whereas, on March 9, 2023, the Ontario Regiment Museum submitted correspondence to the City (see Attachment 1) advising that the street name of Ortono was incorrect and should be spelt Ortona in reference to the Battle of Ortona; and,

Whereas, there are fifteen (15) dwellings on Ortono Avenue; and,

Whereas, reviewing a potential street name change would involve consulting with the existing residents on Ortono Avenue to obtain their comments on the possible renaming of their street and advising them of the process to change a street name and of the Council policy to provide an ex-gratia payment to offset personal costs to change their address;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Economic and Development Services Department be authorized to initiate a consultation process with the residents of Ortono Avenue and the Ontario Regiment Museum regarding the potential street name change and report back to the Economic and Development Services Committee on the results of that consultation.”

Attachment 1 is a map showing the location of Ortono Avenue.

Attachment 2 is a copy of a letter from the Ontario Regiment Museum requesting that the City rename Ortono Avenue.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Economic and Development Services Committee select an appropriate option as set out in Section 5.3 of Report ED-23-170 dated September 6, 2023.

3.0 Executive Summary

Not applicable.

4.0 Input From Other Sources

4.1 Consultation with the Region of Durham and Emergency Service Providers

The following have been consulted in the preparation of this Report:

- Oshawa Fire Services
- Region of Durham Planning and Economic Development Department
- Oshawa Central Ambulance Communications Centre (C.A.C.C.)

The Region of Durham Planning and Economic Development Department reviews street names in consultation with Durham Regional Police Services and maintains the Region’s Street Name Index. This index contains a list of all existing and reserved street names in the Region of Durham. The Region, Oshawa Fire Services and the C.A.C.C. have no objection to the street name change.

4.2 Consultation with Residents of Ortono Avenue

On June 2, 2023, the property owners and residents of Ortono Avenue were mailed a letter from the Commissioner of Economic and Development Services, including a short questionnaire, requesting their comments on the potential renaming of Ortono Avenue. A total of twenty-nine (29) letters and questionnaires (one to each property owner and dwelling unit on Ortono Avenue), including self-addressed stamped envelopes for residents to return the questionnaire, were mailed out. Questionnaires were requested to be returned by June 30, 2023.

The questionnaire asked if residents supported renaming the street and if they supported renaming the street Ortona Avenue.

A total of 8 responses were received from property owners and residents of Ortono Avenue.

The responses can be summarized as follows:

- Six of the responses support renaming the street.
- Two of the responses do not support renaming the street.
- The two responses that did not support renaming the street indicated that they had concerns with the costs to both the City and affected residents.
- One of the responses that did not support renaming the street suggested the existing street name be retained but a poppy be added to the street sign to indicate that the street name is related to the City's military history.
- One of the letters and questionnaires was returned to the City as "Return to Sender" since the single detached dwelling proposed to be constructed on the property has not yet been built.

5.0 Analysis

5.1 Proposed Street Name Change

The street now known as Ortono Avenue was originally named Russell Avenue when the original plan of subdivision for the area, Plan 167, was registered in February 1913.

Following the conclusion of the Second World War and the construction of Highway 401, several streets were closed and other streets were renamed in honour of Second World War battles such as Normandy, Dunkirk and Dieppe. Russell Avenue was included in the group of affected streets and was renamed Ortono Avenue.

On March 9, 2023, the Ontario Regiment Museum (O.R.M.) submitted correspondence to the City advising that the street name Ortono was incorrect and should be spelt Ortona in reference to the Battle of Ortona. A copy of the letter submitted by the O.R.M. forms Attachment 2 to this Report.

On May 1, 2023, City Council directed the Economic and Development Services Department to consult with residents on Ortono Avenue regarding the potential street name change and report back to the Economic and Development Services Committee on the results of that consultation.

A summary of the consultation is provided in Section 4.2 of this Report.

There are 15 properties with addresses on Ortono Avenue, not including one vacant property owned by the Ministry of Transportation currently addressed 0 Ortono Avenue. There is one additional vacant property (483 Ortono Avenue) for which a house is planned in the future. There is a mix of 1-, 2- and 3-unit houses on Ortono Avenue, and there are a number of properties where the owner does not live at the property.

5.2 Process for Renaming a Street

The process for renaming a street is generally as follows:

- (a) The Economic and Development Services Committee makes a recommendation to Council;
- (b) If Council approves the proposal to rename the street, it is an approval “in principle” with direction that staff undertake the street renaming process;
- (c) Staff undertake the street renaming process which involves:
 - Preparing a by-law renaming the street;
 - Providing notice of Council’s intent to pass the proposed by-law renaming the street by including the notice on the City’s website and by mailing out a copy of the notice to all affected property owners;
 - Having Council hear any person that claims to be adversely affected by the by-law and who applies to be heard. While Council is required to hear a person who claims to be adversely affected, there is no mechanism for appealing a by-law renaming a street;
 - Having Council pass the by-law renaming the street; and,
- (d) Advise affected homeowners by mail of the Council-approved street name change and provide them with the ex-gratia payment.

5.3 Options

5.3.1 Option 1: Do Not Rename the Street

Under this option, the street name Ortono Avenue would not be changed and no further action is required. In the event the Economic and Development Services Committee chooses this option the Economic and Development Services Committee may wish to pass the following motion:

“That the Economic and Development Services Committee recommend to City Council that Report ED-23-170 dated September 6, 2023 concerning the potential renaming of Ortono Avenue be received for information.”

5.3.2 Option 2: Approve the Renaming of Ortono Avenue to Ortona Avenue

In the event the Economic and Development Services Committee chooses to rename Ortono Avenue to Ortona Avenue, the Economic and Development Services Committee may wish to pass the following motion:

“That the Economic and Development Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That, pursuant to Report ED-23-170 dated September 6, 2023, Ortono Avenue be renamed to Ortona Avenue and the appropriate by-law be passed and that the ex-gratia payment of \$250 to each household affected by the street name change be charged to the 2023 Planning Services Operating Budget as set out in said Report.
2. That, pursuant to Report ED-23-170 dated September 6, 2023, the newspaper advertisement requirements of Notice By-law 147-2007 be waived given the consultation process that has occurred concerning the proposal to rename Ortono Avenue to Ortona Avenue and given the localized nature of the matter.”

6.0 Financial Implications

There are certain costs to those affected by any street name change.

If the street name is changed, compensation for affected residents and property owners would amount to $\$250 \times 29 = \$7,250$. This will be charged to the 2023 Planning Services Operating Budget and can be accommodated in this budget.

Estimated City costs for changing the street name to Ortona Avenue are as follows:

- Cost of the mail out notices to affected residents: approximately \$30;
- Cost to manufacture and install two (2) new street signs: \$52.00;
- Cost to register the by-law: approximately \$76; and,
- Cost to change City records including maps and Geographic Information System: Unknown (primarily staff time).

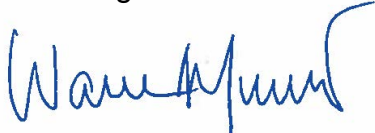
The above-noted costs can be accommodated in the existing 2023 Departmental operating budgets as appropriate.

7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

The Recommendation advances the Accountable Leadership and Social Equality goals in the Oshawa Strategic Plan.



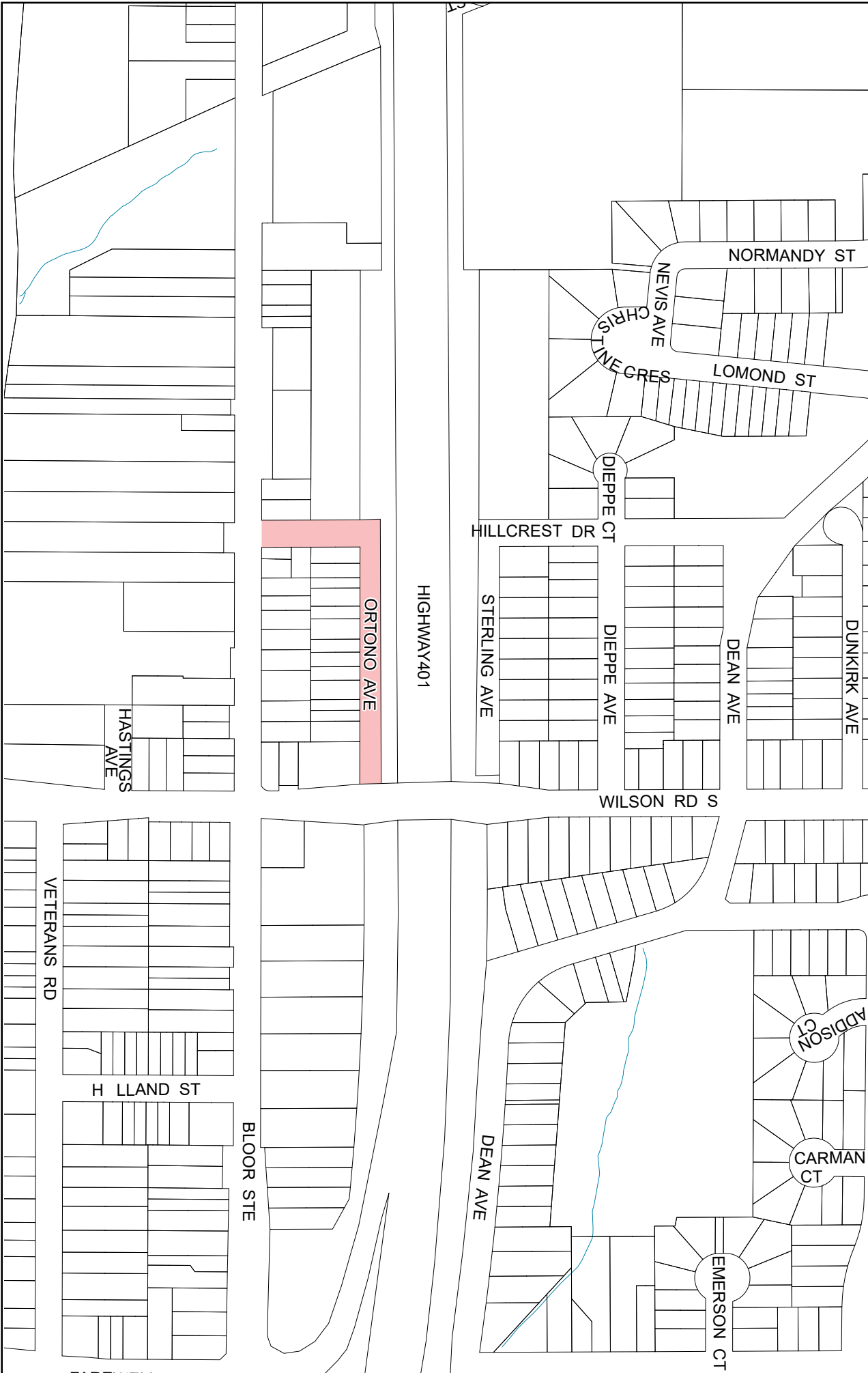
Tom Goodeve, M.Sc.Pl., MCIP, RPP, Director,
Planning Services



Warren Munro, HBA, MCIP, RPP, Commissioner,
Economic and Development Services Department

Item: ED-23-170
Attachment 1

Subject: Proposal to Rename Ortono Avenue
Ward: Ward 5
File: 12-12-4031



City of Oshawa
Economic and Development Services





**ONTARIO
REGIMENT
MUSEUM**
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City of Oshawa,

The Battle of Ortona was fought in December 1942 when the 1st Canadian Corps continued their mission to clear the eastern coast of Italy during the Second World War. The 1st Canadian Infantry Division, supported by the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade, cleared the town in the face of fanatical resistance from German Paratroopers. The fierce battle was called “Little Stalingrad’ by reporters at the time and received international attention.

The Ontario Regiment fought in the Battle, receiving a Battle Honour for its efforts in clearing the approaches to the city, and supporting efforts to isolate the defenders.

A street in Oshawa was intended to be named after the battle to honour that memory and our local citizens that were involved, but for some reason the name was misspelled to Ortono.

The Ontario Regiment Museum, as part of the Regimental Family, believes that it would be appropriate to address this historical error, and correct the name of the street to Ortona as was initially intended.

Thank you

Jeremy N Blowers

Jeremy Neal Blowers
Executive Director

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