

Ryerson Park Tree Policy Recommendation

Committee Report

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend a policy for tree planting on Ryerson Park.

Background

At the 2011 Chautauqua Residents Association (CRA) Annual General Meeting (AGM), it was moved that a committee be established to formulate a policy regarding the planting of trees at Ryerson Park. The policy was to include the number of trees, type of trees and planting location. It was also agreed that in developing their recommendation, the committee must respect the following criteria, previously established by the CRA:

- The park remains a passive park.
- Access to the water be maintained.
- Nothing be planted that would impede the view of the lake or the sunset.

A committee was formed by members of the 2012 CRA Executive Board and a representative from Niagara-on-the-Lake Parks and Recreation, acting in an advisory capacity.¹ This report represents the findings and recommendations of this committee.

Findings

The criteria referenced above reflect what was agreed between the CRA and the town when the town took over management of the property.

The park is enjoyed by visitors and residents alike, whether for picnics, games, enjoying the view of the lake or enjoying the sunset. Based on the observed use of the park, Parks and Recreation has suggested that additional trees are not required.

Plaques and markers are not permitted on memorial trees in town parks. Memorial trees can be planted in town parks, when opportunities are available. Tree species, size location and timing of planting are at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation department.

With regards to memorials in general, it should also be noted that Ryerson Park has reached its capacity, as previously established by the CRA and the town, for tables and benches.

Recommendations

- No additional trees be planted.
- All existing trees should be replaced as they reach end of life. This will be determined by NOTL Parks and Recreation and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Tree Committee.
- Any replacement trees will be a native species. This is consistent with town policy and guidelines from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).
- Although administered through an agreement that is distinct from the Ryerson Park agreement, these recommendations should also be applied to Chautauqua Park.

¹ B. Andres, L. Busbridge, J.B. Hopkins, P. Millard, B. Moffat, L. Miyata, R. Robinson