

May 28, 2021

Anthony Wood
City of Saskatoon Naming Advisory Committee
Community Services Department, Planning and Development Branch
222 – 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0J5

Hi Anthony,

Further to our telephone call today, please find attached my submission for Thelma (Stevens) Pepper to the Names Master List for consideration on naming municipally-controlled property. Attached are: Application Form; Background Information; Biography, and pictures with description on back of picture.

I appreciated your help today in determining how I complete the application form. I hope everything is in order, but if not, please do not hesitate to contact me with anything you need. I would appreciate just a short email to confirm receipt of the application, at your convenience.

Thanks very much Anthony.

Regards,



Ron Pepper

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] West 17th Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V5Y [REDACTED]

CESS

Request

Form to Planning & Development that a name be added to the

Committee reviews naming request with Council guidelines.

Committee recommends to City Council support or non-support for adding the Names Master List.

Approves or rejects adding names to the

adds a name from the Names Master List to the Planning & Development Branch by the City Council, or other Civic

adds a name from the Names Master List to the Mayor's Office who selects the Names Master List.

Notifies applicant and affected others that a name has been selected for use.

Specific Naming Request

Screening
Naming Advisory Committee reviews naming request in accordance with Council guidelines.

Recommendations
Naming Advisory Committee recommends to City Council the support or non-support for the naming request.

Approval
City Council approves or rejects naming request.

Notification
The Mayor notifies applicant and affected others of City Council's decision.

Re-Naming Request

Consult
The applicant is required to consult property owners affected by the proposed re-naming. Please contact the Planning & Development Branch to determine the consultation requirements.

Suggestion
Submit Application Form to Planning & Development Branch to re-name a specific municipally-owned property. Include written comments from affected property owners.

Comments
Planning & Development Branch contacts all affected civic departments, community associations, property owners, etc. to gather comments and estimate costs.

Screening
Naming Advisory Committee reviews re-naming request in accordance with Council guidelines.

Recommendations
Naming Advisory Committee recommends to City Council the support or non-support for the re-naming request.

Approval
City Council approves or rejects re-naming request.

Notification
The Mayor notifies applicant and affected others of City Council's decision.

APPLICATION FORM To Name Streets, Parks & Civic Properties

Please complete the attached application form for all new name submissions and requests for a street, park, or other civic properties.

Name: RON PEPPER

Address: 108 WEST 17th AVE.

City/Town: VANCOUVER Province: B.C. V5Y Postal Code:

Phone: E-mail:

New Name Submission Re-naming Request

Requested Name(s) (please print)
THELMA (STEVENS) PEPPER

Requested Use of Name
 Street Park Municipal Facility
 Neighbourhood Other Any of the Above
 Suburban Development Areas

If this is a request for re-naming an existing location, please indicate the current name.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS PART OF YOUR APPLICATION
(Indicate which items are attached to the application form)

1. Background Information (Reason for request) (ATTACHED)
2. Short Biography (Given name, date of birth/death, place of birth, content awards, achievements, or other relevant information) (ATTACHED)

Do you wish to speak to the Naming Advisory Committee? YES

Please send the completed application form to:
City of Saskatoon Naming Advisory Committee
Community Services Department, Planning & Development Branch
222-3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK
S7K 0J5



Background Information

Thelma Pepper is an excellent candidate to be considered for the naming or re-naming of a municipally-controlled property, by the Naming Advisor Committee. Recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (2018), Thelma has consistently demonstrated excellence, courage and dedication to roles and services that have positively impacted the development of Saskatoon and brought awareness and credit to the City of Saskatoon and Province of Saskatchewan in the following ways.

- As revealed in her biography (attached), Thelma's photography consistently demonstrated excellence and exceptional dedication to celebrating the uniqueness and spirit of Saskatchewan people, particularly senior prairie women and the elderly. All the awards, accomplishments and recognition that Thelma Pepper has received for her photography center around her passion and focus in giving a voice to the people who played a critical role in shaping Saskatchewan. Thelma's documentation of the lives of prairie pioneer women and men put their experiences and resilience into focus for future generations to understand. Thelma illuminated the critical roles prairie women held within their seemingly ordinary, everyday environments. To this day, her work reveals that dignity, courage and happiness exist in the lives of all Saskatchewan senior citizens. Her intimate photographs of elders reveal true compassion coming from her deep curiosity, warmth and understanding. Where others might see sorrow and despair, Thelma saw the spirit, dignity and courage of all these individuals. Thelma was a vibrant spirit and a brilliant storyteller.

Thelma's work has had a substantial impact on the social and cultural well-being of the Province of Saskatchewan. Her photography poignantly documents the economic and social realities of Saskatchewan people and places. Thelma's powerful black and white portraits and large-scale panoramas (printed by herself in her family darkroom) have been exhibited extensively throughout Saskatchewan, in seven other Canadian provinces, and in exhibitions across Europe. Through this reach, Thelma has taught Canadians and an international audience about life in rural Saskatchewan, and about the honesty, creativity and hard-working nature of Saskatchewan people. Although initially apprehensive about moving to Saskatchewan in 1947 she became smitten by its uniqueness and by the spiritual essence she found in its people. Thelma believed that these core values should be recognized and celebrated.

- Thelma had a strong belief in the value of literacy and creativity and was a strong advocate in Saskatoon. As a volunteer reader and educator, she felt strongly that literature and reading could have a direct impact on a citizen's personal wellbeing. As president of the Brunskill School Parents Advisory Council, she was instrumental in establishing the first school library in Saskatoon. Thelma was a long-term supporter of creativity in kids and senior citizens and gave numerous lectures on the topic.
- Thelma was also a strong naturalist and promoted the idea that through nature one could have a better understanding of oneself. She was a long-time member of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society and served in many administration roles. Thelma was an expert bird watcher and botanist and assisted in research to better understand bird migration through Saskatchewan.

Thelma Pepper loved talking to people and learning about their lives and where they came from. She loved travelling from town to town, slough to slough, to understand the people and places of Saskatchewan. In her own quiet but confident way, she made everyone she met feel better about themselves and in their own lives. She loved her adopted home of Saskatchewan – its history and people. She lived an honest, hard-working and engaged life, and is an excellent role model and representative for the naming of municipally-controlled property.

Biography

Thelma Vivian (Stevens) Pepper

Childhood

- Born July 28, 1920 Kingston, Nova Scotia. Died Dec. 01, 2020, Saskatoon Saskatchewan. 100 years old.
- Parents operated L.D. Stevens General Store, Kingston, N.S.
- Grandparents operated S.S. Stevens Lumber Company, Kingston, N.S.
- Both Father and Grandfather passionate photographers and naturalists with major influence on Thelma. Many hours spent hiking and in darkroom printing pictures.

Education

- B.Sc., Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S., 1941. (Acadia Entrance Scholarship, Tennis Team)
- M.Sc., McGill University, Montreal, QC (Major: Botany), 1943.

Family

- Husband Jim (1920 – 2003) – Professor and Head Organic Chemistry Department, University of Saskatchewan.
- Four Children – U of S graduates and varsity athletes. Encouraged children to find something they could excel in to support self-confidence in early formative years.

Volunteer

- Strong literacy and creativity advocate – it improves personal wellbeing.
- President Brunskill Elementary School Parents Advisory Council. Created first public school library in Saskatoon.
- Saskatoon TV Panel Member – “Guidance of Children’s Reading: Pre-school Through the Fifth Grade”.
- Dedicated volunteer reader: Hospitals; senior residences; public schools and to the blind.
- Key role in developing arts program at Saskatoon’s Sherbrooke Community Centre. Thelma was instrumental in promoting the ‘Eden Alternative’ with her photography. The ‘Eden Alternative’ for senior’s care emphasizes that plants, pets, children, companionship and creativity are better than pills for treating the elderly. This approach states that dignity and courage reside in everyone, and that the elderly should be treated with this in mind. The Sherbrooke in-house restaurant was named “Peppers” in honor of Thelma’s contribution to Sherbrooke Centre.

Hobbies

- Passionate sports enthusiast – tennis, curling, bridge (500 Master Points).
- Member Saskatoon Natural History Society – Banded Birds under supervision of Dr. Stuart Houston, “Golden Eagles” hiking club and rare bird alert team member.
- Saskatchewan native plant documentation – Over 150 native plants professionally mounted.

Vocation - Photographer

- Rekindled youth interest in photography at age 60. Photography provided a strong feeling of belonging and a way to celebrate the identity and people of Saskatchewan, her adopted home, that she loved so much as an adult and as a mother and wife.
- Productive and influential Saskatchewan visual artist from age 60 to age 97.
 - Nine Canada Council and Sask. Arts Board grants.
 - Active with The Photographer’s Gallery, an artist-run exhibition and resource center. At the age of 69, first solo exhibition entitled *Decades of Voices: Saskatchewan Pioneer Women* went on to travel across Canada and to Scotland.
 - Four major photography exhibitions documenting the places and people of Saskatchewan. Exhibitions travelled to art galleries and museums across Saskatchewan, to seven provinces and the Yukon Territories, and to the United Kingdom. Exhibitions currently stored in permanent collections across the province including: Remai Modern; The Saskatchewan Arts Board; U of S; Kenderdine Art Gallery; Mackenzie Art Gallery; and Art Placement Gallery.

Biography (Cont'd)
Thelma Vivian (Stevens) Pepper

- 2009 **"Light Unleashed – The Photography of Thelma Pepper"** – a 30-minute documentary film televised on both SCN and Access TV. Winner of SMPJA showcase Award.
- 2010 **National Film Board – "A Year at Sherbrooke"** chronicles Thelma's ongoing leadership in creation of arts programming for long-term residents. World premiere 2010 Toronto.
- 2012 Chosen **"Patron"** Of Saskatchewan Libraries Week.
- Numerous Artist Talks at schools and community groups. Latest Amy McClure House, 2017, age 97.
- 2014 **Saskatchewan Book Of the Year finalist** – "Human Touch – Portraits of Strength, Courage and Dignity".
- 2015 **Saskatchewan Arts Council Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- 2017 **Saskatchewan Order of Merit**, the province's highest public honor recognizing excellence and achievements from outstanding citizens. Oldest recipient in the award's history.
- 2018 **These Women Live On** – CBC Sunday morning documentary by producer David Gutnick.
- 2020 **Thelma A Life in Pictures** a biography written by Amy Jo Ehman, published by MacIntrye Purcell.
- 2021 **Thelma Pepper: Ordinary Women. A Retrospective**. Remai Modern Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Sask. Feb 13, 2021 to August 15, 2021, but now extended to October, 2021. The retrospective "highlights the life's work of one of Saskatchewan's pre-eminent senior artists, Thelma Pepper (1920 – 2020), an important photographer, feminist and activist. Known for her black and white photographs.