

# Council Accepts Gift of 30-Acre Park from Oakes

Property on Gilmore road formed  
part of Curtis estate; improve-  
ments will be made

1932

Through the generosity of Harry Oakes, of Niagara Falls, Fort Erie is to have a 30-acre park on the north side of Gilmore road. Mr. Oakes offered the park to the council at its meeting Monday night, and the offer was accepted.

The offer was made by letter, which Mayor W. J. Hawley amplified. The mayor said that he had been given to understand that Mr. Oakes is interested in the development of sports and in Fort Erie, and that he wants the town to have a nice park and athletic field.

"Although Mr. Oakes doesn't mention making any improvements to the property in his letter, I am sure he will fix up the land. The property, of course, formed part of the Curtis estate, and was recently taken over by the town at the tax sale. The property was redeemed by Mrs. Curtis by paying \$12,000 tax arrears, and Mr. Oakes purchased it from her and now is handing it back to the town."

Mayor Hawley also pointed out that last fall Mr. Oakes offered the council two parks in return for some town property on Bowen road, but that this time he asked nothing in return.

"It's a great location," remarked Councillor Bown, "It couldn't be any more central."

"We certainly should accept the offer," was Councillor Price's opinion.

Mayor Hawley pointed out that the town planning commission will have to be consulted, but the council decided to accept the offer, and then get the opinion of the commission as to the best use for the property. With the acceptance, a letter of thanks will be sent to Mr. Oakes.

from the TIMES REVIEW:: july 20th, 1933.

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