



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BRAMPTON

## BY-LAW

Number 290-2010

To designate the property known as Camp Naivelt at 8596 Creditview Road as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O. 18 (as amended) authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

WHEREAS the Brampton Heritage Board supports the designation of the properties described herein;

WHEREAS a Notice of Intention to Designate has been published and served in accordance with the Act, and there has been no Notice of Objection served on the Clerk;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the City of Brampton HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. The property known as Camp Naivelt at 8596 Creditview Road more particularly described in Schedule "A" is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.
2. The City Clerk shall cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" to this by-law in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk shall cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the property known as Camp Naivelt at 8596 Creditview Road and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust and to cause notice of this by-law to be published to the City's website in accordance with Council's Procedure By-law.
4. The City Clerk shall serve and provide notice of this by-law in accordance with the Act.
5. The short statement of the reason for the designation of the property, including a description of the heritage attributes are set out in Schedule "B" to this by-law.
6. The affidavit of Peter Fay attached, as Schedule "C" hereto shall form part of this by-law.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED IN OPEN COUNCIL THIS 15 DAY OF September, 2010.

Approved as  
to form

Aug 26/10

Original signed by

SUSAN FENNELL - MAYOR

Original signed by

PETER FAY - CLERK

Approved as to Content:

Karl Walsh, Director, Community Design, Parks Planning and Development

**62-5-2**

**SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 290-2010**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**PIN: 14087-0045 (LT)**

**PT LT 3 CON 4 WHS CHINGUACOUSY AS IN CH17746 (FIRSTLY) & CH18846  
EXCEPT VS149781 ; BRAMPTON**

**SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW *290-2010***

**STATEMENT OF THE REASON FOR THE DESIGNATION OF CAMP NAIVELT, 8596  
CREDITVIEW ROAD, CITY OF BRAMPTON**

**GENERAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION**

The property known as Camp Naivelt falls within a portion of Lots 2 and 3 in Concession 4, WHS (former township of Chinguacousy). The area was surveyed in 1819.

Camp Naivelt is situated in the heart of the Credit Valley. A portion of the Credit River runs through the property. The overall shape of the parcel is an irregular L-shape that comprises almost 50 acres. Much of the landscape is defined by gently rolling hills with some steep slopes and gullies dropping down toward the Credit River valley. Overall Camp Naivelt is dominated by forest with some open space areas for gatherings and recreation. Property lines are defined by mature hedgerows and page wire fences in some areas.

The subject property as it is today, can be divided into three components. 'Hill 1' is a triangular parcel located on the west side of Creditview Road and linked to the road by an unpaved laneway. In the 1940s and 1950s rudimentary one-room wood frame cottages were built in two converging rows, surrounding a large central open space that serves as a common area.

Hill 1 comprises 24 cottages. The main entrance into Camp Naivelt is situated here, leading in from the west side of Creditview Road. The entrance is partially screened by a hedgerow of cedars and shrubs.

A portion of the Credit River creates a natural divide between Hills 1 and 2. A footbridge, connects the two hills. It was built in recent years by the City of Brampton, replacing an earlier bridge constructed in the 1950s by Camp Naivelt.

Hill 2 is situated on the west side of the Credit River, deeper within the subject property. Some 35 cottages are found on Hill 2. A long row of frame cottages flanks the western property line along its length. The open space fronting Hill 2 contains a circular arrangement of cottages and is known as "the Hill 2 Circle". At one time there was also a row of cottages on the face of Hill 2 known as "King's Row".

The "Lasowsky Centre" is located at the base of Hill 2, just inside the entrance to Camp Naivelt from Eldorado Park. The simple cinder block facility is used for meetings, dances and other larger scale events. It replaces an earlier wood frame dining hall built originally when the property was owned by the Canadian National Railway (CNR). It was lost to fire some years ago.

A private laneway bi-sects Hill 2 and 3. The original children's camp (Camp Kindervelt) was located in this general area, along a slope dropping down toward what is the site of

the Eldorado Pool. Most of the children's camp area is now overgrown with small trees and vegetation. A topographical map created in 1960 indicates that the children's cottages were laid out in a U-shaped plan facing east. Some ruins of these cottages survive but most structures appear to have been removed from the area.

Some 40 cottages populate Hill 3. Hill 3 is generally laid out in the same fashion as Hill 2, with a long relatively straight row of frame cottages along the western property line. A camp facility known as "The Ritz" is located at the base of the Hill 3 area. Two vacant buildings that originally functioned as the children's camp Infirmary and were later occupied as regular cottages, are located just west of "The Ritz". A frame shed located directly adjacent to the "The Ritz" houses a boiler.

The sloping ravine that drops down toward the Credit River is heavily wooded.

With the exception of a few relatively small clearings that front the cottages and some unpaved laneways, the property is generally defined by dense woodland cover.

#### **STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST OF THE PROPERTY**

Camp Naivelt is located at 8596 Creditview Road north of Steeles Avenue. Camp Naivelt is a significant cultural heritage landscape. It is worthy of designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value or interest. The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design or physical value, historical value and/or contextual value. Historical and contextual value criteria elements are especially significant.

#### **Historical / Associative Value**

Camp Naivelt (Yiddish word for "New World") has direct associations with a range of important historical and cultural themes.

#### **Eldorado Area**

Camp Naivelt contributes much to our understanding of the historical and physical evolution of the Eldorado area within the Credit River valley.

The subject lands were first settled by the Mary Ann Forrest on Lot 3 (sawmill owner) and Jacob Snure on Lot 2, (owner of Eldorado Mills). Creditview Road was surveyed and in place before 1859. The 1877 Atlas identifies Kenneth Chisholm as owner of the subject property. Chisholm purchased the Eldorado Mill site from Jacob Snure prior to 1877. Mapping indicates that the general area remained sparsely populated until after the 1940s.

Originally the property was part of the mill operations along the Credit River but was never seen as either an ideal farming site or suitable for milling.

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By the early 1900s the property became part of a large private recreational area known as Eldorado Park. In 1925 the Canadian National Railway (CNR) purchased these lands to establish a full-scale amusement park. The CNR equipped the facility with a merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, a dance hall and other amenities. The CNR's strategy was to use the park attraction as a means to draw families into the area - ideally using the struggling suburban radial railway line, which the CNR had purchased in 1918. The line ran through Eldorado and Camp Naivelt in a north-westerly direction, on the west side of the Credit River bank. The rail bed remains intact along a portion of the river bank, just outside Camp Naivelt near the Eldorado Park swimming pool. A segment of railway track survives inside Camp Naivelt itself.

During the depths of the Great Depression the CNR determined that Eldorado Park was too much of a financial burden. The CNR elected to sell the Eldorado Park attraction. On September 20, 1935 a holding company accepted title to the lands at Eldorado for Camp Naivelt.

In the 1930s the secular Jewish organization that founded Camp Naivelt identified Eldorado Park as an ideal location for a permanent camping facility. A holding company was formed called, "Eldorado Camp & Amusements Limited" to purchase the property from the Canadian National Railway, because the CNR evidently would not sell the land to a Jewish organization. Early campers recall a hateful sign that had once been posted at the main entrance to Eldorado Park that warned, "*No Jews or Dogs Allowed*".

In the 1960s, membership at Camp Naivelt declined for a period of time. Approximately 52 acres of Camp Naivelt, containing many camp facilities, were sold to the Township of Chinguacousy (now City of Brampton).

Although almost half of the original Camp Naivelt site was sold the general area retains a rural and undisturbed pastoral quality, partly because the land sold off is still used as parkland and open space (Eldorado Park), also because Camp Naivelt itself has changed little since its inception in the 1930s and because it retains its original, generally passive recreational use.

### "Summer Camp" Movement

Camp Naivelt is important in helping to define the importance of the "summer camp" movement that only really took root after World War One. With urbanization many parents started looking for places to take their children that could offer fresh air, open spaces, fun and escape from crime and other problems of the inner-City. It also offered an escape from the risk of polio which always emerged in the summer months. Summer camps were established across North America.

According to Nancy Mykoff of the Jewish Women Encyclopedia, the summer camp concept was especially popular with Jewish organizations, in part because anti-

Semitism barred Jewish youth from other more established camps. Jewish summer camps of every political and cultural stripe were formed throughout the continent.

Camp Naivelt had strong connections with similar camps in the Laurentians of Quebec and on Sylvan Lake in Hopewell Junction, NY, just outside New York City.

### Women's History

The site also has meaningful associations with women's history. The origins of Camp Naivelt rest with the Jewish Women's Labour League (Yiddisher Arbeter Froyen Farein). In 1925, a group of these women, including Rae Watson, Becky Lapedes, Leah Linzon, Bella Goodis, Gertie Blugerman, Ethel Temkin and Tillie Chikovsky, founded Camp Kindervelt, the precursor of Camp Naivelt. The following is excerpted from Becky Lapedes's 1975 article in the Vochenblatt(newspaper):

Virtually all the 35 members of the Jewish Women's Labour League helped – by working two week shifts and contributing \$3.00 a week as well. Notable amongst them were Rachel Watson, Manya Shur, Becky Lapedes, Gertie Blugerman, Lily Krakauer, Ida Nepom, Sarah Sheiner, Ida Milton, Tillie Chikovsky, Mrs. Blum and Pearlstein, Leah Lindzon, Ethel Temkin. (from *Fifty Years of Kinderland and Naivelt*, Becky Lapedes, Vochenblatt, July 9, 1975)

At first, the camp was located in Long Branch, and in 1926 it moved to the Rouge Hills northeast of Toronto. Initially the property was leased. As the camp grew in popularity, the Women's League partnered with the all-male Labour League in order to purchase a larger and better equipped camp site at Eldorado Park, which became Camp Naivelt.

One of their objectives with Camp Naivelt, and its earlier incarnations, was forcefully described by the Women's League:

"We will explore all avenues in order to create a summer home for workers' children so that they don't have to go to the rich charity institutions who with one hand take the skin from our bodies, and with the other throw us a bone and humiliate".

These women were from poor working families, where the husbands and wife had no choice but to work. They often had no safe places to leave their children in the City so the workers' camp concept was embraced. It served both a pragmatic aim (caring for the children) and a means to foster a sense of communal living, along with certain cultural and political ideals in their children. As Ester Reiter (historian and sociologist) writes,

"... camp [Naivelt] was designed by and for people with very little money, and it was organized by women. Although the leadership

after its inception reverted to the men, women are credited with maintaining the community. For the children who attended camp, those summers were a powerful experience and a sense of identity was forged that remained central over the years... The motto for the camp was "fun kemp tsu shule, fun shule tsu kemp" (from camp to school, from school to camp). The zomer haim (summer home) was a continuation and extension of the political, cultural and educational activities that went on all winter long in the city... [and] a community where Yiddishkait, radical politics, socialist values and visions mixed comfortably with the pleasures of being in the country. The camp was a working-class camp created by workers, and was also a place to transmit socialist values to the next generation." (from Marlene Epp and Franca Iacovetta (eds). (1995). *Sisters and Strangers*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press)

Camp Naivelt was officially opened on June 28, 1936 (see figure one). The children's camp operated under the name Camp Kinderland. The adult portion was known as Naivelt. After the children's camp closed in the 1960's, the focus shifted to families in general. Very few remnants of Camp Kinderland survive.

### Secular Jewish Culture in Canada

In addition to offering relief from the crowding and heat of inner city life, Camp Naivelt was used to promote secular Jewish cultural traditions. A key element of the Camp Naivelt mission has been to foster a deep and meaningful understanding of secular Jewish culture and folklore, the Yiddish language, music, folk art and dance.

The administration of Camp was overseen by the United Jewish People's Order, when they became a national organization in 1945. The UJPO describes itself as: "...an independent, socialist-oriented, secular cultural and educational organization" with branches in Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, and members in Montreal and other Canadian centres.

From its beginnings in 1926 as the Labour League, the UJPO has always had a socially progressive outlook, consistently promoting labour unionization, peace, and social justice in Canada and the world. All of these ideals were woven into the operational mandate of Camp Naivelt.

### Political History

The Camp helps interpret an interesting period in Canada's political history when idealistic leftist movements were contributing to social reforms that shaped the evolution and character of this country.

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Political and social activism was a significant part of Camp Naivelt. Its mission was to promote progressive socialist philosophy, tightly integrated with secular Jewish and Yiddish cultural traditions.

As Elsie Suller, who for many years was the director of New York's camp Kinderland, characterizes it,

"Kinderland was born in response to a particular need. No other children's camps reflected the rich cultural life, secular lifestyle and social values of the progressive Jewish movement. Members of this movement were involved in social protest; they were activists in the growing labor movement, creators of Yiddish schools, theatre and choral groups and fraternal societies... the cultural program of the camp reflected its own particular values..."

When Camp Naivelt was officially opened on June 26, 1936, several prominent local Leftists made speeches, including Sam Lipshitz, an activist who had started working for the Canadian Communist party in the early 1930s. His wife Manya taught Yiddish and Jewish history at the Winchevsky Centre for twenty-five years. Sam and Manya Lipshitz and their daughter May (later a prominent Toronto physician and professor of medicine) had a cottage at Camp Naivelt. (*Figure six*) There is a snapshot of Sam Lipshitz speaking at the opening of the Camp, among his personal papers in the York University Archives (*Figure one*).

The Lipshitz family were Naivelt attendees along with other prominent Toronto activists, including Morris Biderman and his family.

When the veterans from the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion returned from fighting Franco's dictatorship in Spain, they came to Camp Naivelt. The camp constructed trenches so that the campers would better understand the conditions of fighting as Republicans in the Spanish Civil War. As a Jewish and Left community, the camp identified with the urgent need to stop Hitler and Mussolini. Both of these dictators were actively supporting Fascist Spain.

Canadian Communist Party leader Tim Buck sometimes spoke at Camp Naivelt. The Multicultural History Society of Ontario has film footage in their collection of a labour picnic at Camp Naivelt, (about 1948), which includes footage of Buck delivering a speech. There are also photographs of Tim Buck at Camp Naivelt in 1945 in the York University Archives (*Figure four*).

Camp Naivelt also helps explore how fears of Soviet expansion during the mid and late 20<sup>th</sup> century triggered a wave of anti-Communist hysteria known as the "Red Scare" in North America. Camp Naivelt flourished for many years, even during much of the Cold War era when terms like McCarthyism, "Red Menace" and blacklisting became part of popular culture. During the height of the so called, "Red Scare" of the 1950s Camp



Naivelt was a refuge of sorts for many prominent American performers who had been blacklisted in the US and banned from performing in many places.

The property was rather secluded when first established. Surrounding lands were either undeveloped or used as farmland. The nearest populated centres were the small rural hamlets of Churchville and Huttonville. During the height of anti-Communist hysteria in the late 1950s, one wonders how many people living nearby or in the town of Brampton were aware that a workers camp with Communist leanings was flourishing in their part of so called, "conservative small town Ontario".

The RCMP was aware of Camp Naivelt however. Many visitors recall the RCMP monitoring activities and goings-on there from time to time through the late 1940s and 1950s. The RCMP would periodically 'stake out' the park entrance, recording license plate numbers and photographing anyone visiting during public events.

Atrocities and widespread anti-Semitism associated with Stalinist Russia were exposed after the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953. These revelations, along with anti-Communist fervor during the Cold War eventually impacted the mission of Camp Naivelt. Social Scientist Ester Reiter documents how membership at Camp Naivelt went through a temporary period of decline in the late 1950s and 1960s, finally resulting in the closure of the children's camp and the sale of 50 acres of the property to the Township of Chinguacousy, with the understanding that it be permanently used as public parkland (now Eldorado Park).

## The History of Music and the Arts in Canada

A very significant part of Camp Naivelt's historical value is its rich and direct associations with Canada's musical and artistic heritage. Camp Naivelt was clearly a crucible, gathering together and nurturing young, creative minds. The mission of the Camp helped these people tap into and develop their musical, artistic and literary talent. The long list of Naivelt alumni who went on to forge distinguished careers in music, film, literature, journalism and the arts is astounding.

This well spring of creativity is particularly evident with regard to folk music, a musical genre that focused on the struggles of the working class, the poor and new immigrants; all matters of concern to the founders of Camp Naivelt. The Morris Biderman book, *A Life on the Jewish Left*, records the following:

Long before its general popularity, folk music was prominent at Naivelt, and major artists, such as Pete Seeger, frequently came to perform there... The intensity which grew out of the concentration of so many young, dedicated, energetic and enthusiastic people... was remarkable... Camp Naivelt was a vibrant and important place. (pg. 71-72)

Folk music was an integral part of Camp Naivelt's activities and children's programming. The United Jewish People's Order, owners of Camp Naivelt, established the UJPO Youth Singers in the early 1950s. Groups toured the country singing folk songs, Yiddish music and political anthems. Many Camp Naivelt attendees participated in these national tours.

Gillian Mitchell's book, "North American Folk Music Revival: Nation and Identity in the United States and Canada, 1945-1980" states that "one of the crucial centres for early Jewish-Canadian folk music was a summer camp for Jewish families named Camp Naivelt" and that "Camp Naivelt and the Toronto Jewish community were instrumental in promoting folk music in Canada".

The founding members of Canada's first and best known folk music group, *The Travellers*, met as youth at Camp Naivelt and formed the group while there. In the summer of 1953 at Naivelt, Jerry Gray, Simone Johnston, Sid Dolgoy and Jerry Goodis became friends after watching American folk music legend, Pete Seeger perform there (Figures 8 and 9). Seeger visited Camp several times during the 1950s. Seeger acted as a mentor to the fledging folk group and encouraged them to form essentially a Canadian version of his own folk group, "The Weavers".

In 1955, *The Traveller's* adapted Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" with Canadian place references. Their version of this iconic folk anthem became a nationwide hit record and remains their signature song. *The Travellers* also have the distinction of being the first Canadian musical group to gain international fame.

The CBC Archives holds a July 1960 recording from a summer evening concert at Camp Naivelt. It features the teenage voice of camp member Zalman Yanovsky. As a youth, Zal Yanovsky spent most of his summers at Camp Naivelt. In the early 1960s Yanovsky relocated to New York City. He became a member of a group called the *Mugwumps* with friends John Sebastian, Mama Cass Elliott and Denny Doherty (later members of *The Mamas and The Papas*). In 1964 Yanovsky and John Sebastian co-founded the rock band, *Lovin' Spoonful*. Yanovsky was lead guitarist. *Lovin' Spoonful's* hits include "Summer in the City" and "Do You Believe in Magic". He left the group in 1967 for a solo career.

The tape mentioned above, also features the voice of another Naivelt camper, Sharon Trostin. She would later become a member of the children's group *Sharon, Lois and Bram*. *Sharon, Lois and Bram* became very popular in the 1980s with their CBC television programs, "The Elephant Show" and "Skinamarink TV". The Juno Award winning trio sold millions of albums, performed at the Clinton White House in 1994 and were awarded the Order of Canada in 2002. Sharon Trostin married Joe Hampson, who joined *The Travellers* in 1965.

Juno Award winning singer, songwriter, Eddie Schwartz, is also a Camp Naivelt alumnus. He spent a great deal of time there in the 1970s. Schwartz is perhaps best known as the composer of the 1980 pop song "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" which

became a hit for rock star Pat Benatar. He was also a music producer for numerous artists including, The Doobie Brothers, Donna Summer and Rita Coolidge.

Ben Mink is another Camp Naivelt attendee who has had a distinguished music career. Mink has collaborated with such stars as k.d. Lang, together producing some of her best albums and co-authoring many of her hit songs. In 1993 he and Lang won a Juno for Best Songwriter. They were also nominated for a Grammy Award. Mink has also produced work for the *Barenaked Ladies* and has performed with a Winnipeg-based Klezmer group, the North End Project.

Estelle Klein, the first artistic director of the *Mariposa Folk Festival* was another alumnus of Camp Naivelt. An obituary describes her as the "Queen Mother of Canadian folk music". She was artistic director of the Mariposa Folk Festival for 20 years beginning in 1964. As director she innovated the "standard" format of Canadian folk festival as day long events with workshops, arts and crafts and public interaction with artists. The Ontario Council of Folk Festivals created a prestigious award named in her honour. Estelle Klein developed her deep and life-long love for folk music while at Camp Naivelt, according to her obituary.

Camp Naivelt influences extended beyond folk music to the arts in general. Another significant Camp Naivelt alumnus was Dusty Cohl, co-founder of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Cohl was a camp counselor in the 1940s.

A close friend of Cohl's was Hollywood film director, Ted Kotcheff. The two met at Camp Naivelt in the 1940s. Kotcheff is best known as director of "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz", "Uncommon Valour", "First Blood", "Weekend at Bernie's" and several other Hollywood feature films. He has also directed several American television series, including "Law and Order: SVU".

Toronto Star columnist David Lewis Stein and well known author James Laxer were long time visitors to Camp Naivelt as children. Stein recalls how desperate his parents were to get him out of the crowded city so as to avoid the dreaded polio epidemics that hit Toronto every summer. James Laxer details his Camp Naivelt memories in his autobiographical book, "Red Diaper Baby: A Boyhood in the Age of McCarthyism".

Jerry Goodis, a long time Naivelt attendee and founding member of *The Travellers*, left the folk group in 1960. He formed what would become Canada's largest advertising agency. His firm created such phrases as, "At Speedy You're a Somebody" and "Harvey's makes your hamburger a beautiful thing." Goodis also worked as a publicist for Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

Henry Orenstein, who became a prominent painter and graphic artist and whose work reflected the lives of working people in Canada, had his beginnings as head of Arts and Crafts at Camp Naivelt. Joan Orenstein, celebrated actress in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Halifax, also attended Camp Naivelt, as did the dancer Marcel Chojnicki.

Yet another prominent Naivelt figure was Avrom Yanovsky (1911-1979), father of rock performer Zal Yanovsky. Avrom Yanovsky was a noted political cartoonist and artist, who studied with members of the Group of Seven. Yanovsky's cartoons were featured in the Toronto Tribune newspaper and in several left-wing magazines and newspapers.

Camp Naivelt was visited regularly by a range of prominent American folk singers, authors and artists between the 1940s and 1960s. Deeply admired at Camp Naivelt was legendary American folk singer Pete Seeger. Seeger performed there starting in the mid 1950s after he was 'blacklisted' by the US House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC). As 'red baiting' intensified in the 1950s Seeger could only make a regular living on the college campus circuit and at "Left summer camps" according to a biography by Richard Taskin.

David Lewis Stein recalls that on sunny days Pete Seeger would just sit on a picnic table at Camp Naivelt and start strumming his banjo. Soon he was giving impromptu concerts for anyone that gathered around him.

Pete Seeger either wrote or adapted several of the most important folk songs of the 20<sup>th</sup> century including: "Where Have All The Flowers Gone", "If I Had A Hammer", the civil rights anthem, "We Shall Overcome" and "Turn, Turn, Turn", which became a huge hit for the folk rock band, "The Byrds" in 1965. Seeger also co-founded the legendary folk group, "The Weavers". Their rendition of "Goodnight Irene" was a #1 pop hit in 1950.

Camp Naivelt Cultural Committee minutes for a meeting held on April 18, 1955 suggests that well known performers and authors were actively sought out and paid to visit Camp Naivelt. The April 1955 minutes record that Pete Seeger would be visiting in the summer.

The same Cultural Committee minute book records that Canadian folklorist Ruth Rubin was booked to visit in July, presumably for lectures on Yiddish music and folklore, which she devoted her life to studying.

The minutes also record that American author Bernard Malamud was "prepared to spend 10 days in camp for \$100 which includes travelling expenses". Malamud is a Pulitzer Prize winning author perhaps best remembered as author of "The Natural" about a fictional baseball player.

Earl Robinson, an American born songwriter, musician and leftist political activist, was "prepared to come to Camp Naivelt's opening weekend for \$100 plus expenses". Robinson composed the folk song, "Joe Hill", also, "The House I Live In" for a short film on anti-Semitism starring Frank Sinatra. The song was a hit record for Sinatra in 1945 and the film later won an Academy Award. Robinson was blacklisted in the McCarthy era.

Paul Robeson (1898-1976), the great American baritone, stage and film actor and political activist, performed with the UJPO Toronto Jewish Folk Choir at Massey Hall

many times during the 1940's and 1950s and was a close friend of the Folk Choir's long-time conductor Emil Gartner, who had a cabin at Camp Naivelt. Adored by Naivelters, his songs were often performed at Camp. Like Seeger and Earl Robinson, he too faced blacklisting during the McCarthy era for his leftist politics. Robeson is best known for his performances in the musical, *Show Boat* and Shakespeare's *Othello*. James Laxer, cited above, recalls in his autobiography how enthralled he was hearing Robeson sing with the Folk Choir, marveling at the sheer power and, as he put it, "velocity" of his famous baritone voice.

American folk singer Phil Ochs, best known for the 'protest song' "I Ain't A March'n Anymore" visited and performed several times at Camp Naivelt in the 1960s. Ochs is fondly remembered by many Camp Naivelt attendees.

Camp Naivelt clearly served as a crucible allowing a great many gifted young people to hone their talents, and in its heyday, was also a destination for prominent folk singers and other performers. It can certainly be argued that the musical and cultural associations alone, give Camp Naivelt national heritage significance.

### **Contextual Value**

Camp Naivelt is physically, visually and historically linked to its surroundings. It is a key component within the Eldorado area, a large, complex and interwoven cultural landscape, nestled within a few hundred acres of the Credit Valley.

It is most directly historically and physically associated with the modern day Eldorado Park. Originally Eldorado Park was part of Camp Naivelt. It is now owned by the City of Brampton. Eldorado Park once contained many of the key recreational facilities either constructed by Camp Naivelt or taken over when the property was purchased from the CNR in 1936. These facilities included the Dance Pavilion, amusement rides, fire pit, swimming holes and in-ground swimming pool (originally one of the largest pools in Southern Ontario).

Another compelling contextual association is the now abandoned electric radial railway line. The Guelph leg of the Toronto Suburban Street Railway ran through Camp Naivelt on its way to Huttonville, Norval and finally Guelph. A visible portion of the original rail bed survives along the eastern property line between Camp Naivelt and Eldorado Park. The surviving portion of the rail bed closely follows the bank of the Credit River in a southerly direction, starting at the Eldorado Park swimming pool, extending southward for about one quarter of a kilometer.

A surviving portion of iron railway track from the radial line is situated inside Camp Naivelt. The rails extend over a narrow gully. Concrete piers and planks rest in a pile at the base of the gully just below the tracks, suggesting that this feature was once a small railway bridge.

Camp Naivelt is also associated with other discrete and important historical properties and features such as the Credit River, the nearby Bonnie Braes farmstead, Creditdale Farm, the Bowstring Bridge, the site of Eldorado Mills, the nearby hamlets of Huttonville and Churchville, the former Credit Valley Railway line (later the CPR line).

The site is also linked physically and contextually to Creditview Road, which in this area, remains one of Brampton's scenic, rural roadscapes. The main entrance into Camp Naivelt is off Creditview Road. The frontage of Camp Naivelt, facing Creditview Road, is screened by vegetation and is defined by a rural road cross-section with swale. The only signage is a hand painted wooden "Camp Naivelt" sign posted at the road. These attributes contribute to the prevailing rural character of the property.

Camp Naivelt is important in defining and maintaining the rural character that still prevails in the Eldorado / Credit Valley area. Overall the property is dominated by rolling hills, dense forest and ribbons of sodded open space areas fronting cottages and surrounding general purpose buildings such as "The Ritz", the now abandoned children's camp infirmary and "Lasowsky Centre". These common spaces are used for meetings, recreation, laundry and showering.

Camp Naivelt contains remnants of the Carolinian forest zone of southern Peel Region. Much of the property is defined by mostly deciduous forest, particularly along the sloping hillsides and ravines that drop down toward the Credit River. Several tall white pines (some likely as old as 150-200 years), along with beech, shagbark hickory, maple, black walnut and oak are found. A variety of shrubs, ground covers and clusters of trillium plants dot the forest floor and grounds near many of the cottages. Preservation of this woodland area contributes to the overall ecological health of the Credit Valley. Large weeping willows are located near some cottages.

Property lines are generally defined by mature hedgerows, page wire fences and vegetation which help screen Camp Naivelt from neighbouring properties. The property is also defined by a series of unpaved laneways, footpaths, grassed clearings and open areas for recreational activities and social gatherings.

### **Design / Physical Value**

The cottages, site plan characteristics and natural, rural setting at Camp Naivelt form a significant and utterly unique cultural heritage landscape in the City of Brampton.

In the early years of Camp Naivelt only tents were available to adult campers. Starting in the 1940s permanent, one-storey wood-frame cottages, clad in either clapboard or insulbrick, were constructed. By the 1950s the UJPO had also built a band shell, boathouse, swimming pool and two bridges over the Credit River.

At its peak of operations, Camp Naivelt had some 90 cottages, a communal dining hall, dance hall, youth recreation hall, grocery store and a camp office. There was a camp

directors cabin, arts and crafts cabin, infirmary, and a communal washroom and shower area known as, "The Ritz".

Several dozen rustic frame cottages remain standing throughout the site; arranged in rows surrounding or fronted by large, open common areas. The site plan characteristics of Camp Naivelt remain intact.

The cottage structures retain most of their original character-defining elements such as either low hip or front gable roofs (many with exposed rafter tails), original wooden sash windows and wood storm shutters, doors and cladding (e.g. clapboard, insulbrick and shiplap siding). Some cottages have small open porches (with or without low wood railings), and wood screen doors, other have screened-in sunrooms. Trim, doors and shutters of many of the cottages are accented with bright and vibrant paint treatments or small hand-painted decorative murals.

Also of note is the camp building known as "The Ritz". It was erected in the late 1940's and coincided with the introduction of running water at Camp Naivelt. It still houses working showers for the general use of current Naivelt campers. The rectangular wood frame building with exhibits characteristics of a 1940s era camp 'canteen' with a hipped roof, exposed trusses and rafter tails, large screened-in verandahs with a tongue-in-groove wood ceiling and two decorative, boxed roof vents. The small adjacent frame shed houses a large boiler.

Some 300 children would attend camp during the summer and, at its height during the 1940's and 50's, as many as 5000 people would fill Camp Naivelt on a summer weekend.

The original children's camp infirmary buildings (now abandoned) are still standing, just west of "The Ritz". These structures, along with remains of an abandoned cabin inside the site of the former children's camp help tell the Camp Naivelt story. These structures may be beyond salvage, but their locations are of significance.

Also of note is a surviving section of iron railway line that crosses over a gully inside Camp Naivelt. This is possibly one of the only surviving remnants of railway track from the abandoned Toronto Suburban Radial Railway. Presumably the tracks are all that remains of a small bridge that once crossed the gully as the line made its way through Eldorado Park.

The statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the subject property, including a description of the heritage attributes of the property along with all other components of the Heritage Report: Statement of Reasons for Heritage Designation, constitute the "reason for heritage designation" required under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES OF THE PROPERTY:**

Unless otherwise indicated, the reasons for designation apply generally to the exterior massing, built-form, facades, finishes and details of all cottages, all mature trees, groupings of mature trees, hedgerows, other significant vegetation, the pattern, arrangement and site plan characteristics of cottages on the property, along with open spaces, site and setting, grounds, landscapes and vistas generally.

To ensure that the cultural heritage value of this property is conserved, certain heritage attributes that contribute to its value have been identified specifically and they include:

**Historical / Associative Value:**

- Direct associations with the history and development of Canadian folk music;
- Contributes to the understanding of Canada in the Cold War era, Canadian political history, history of music and the arts in Canada, secular Jewish cultural and political history and Canadian women's history;
- Direct historical associations with prominent folk singers, artists and musicians, including: Pete Seeger, Paul Robeson, Zal Yanovsky, Sharon Hampson of *Sharon, Lois and Bram*, Eddie Schwartz, Ben Mink, Marcel Chojnicki, Joan Orenstein, Emil and Fagel Gartner, *The Travellers* and Phil Ochs;
- Direct historical associations with prominent figures in film, literature and the arts, including: Avrom Yanovsky, Estelle Klein, James Laxer, David Lewis Stein, Dusty Cohl, Ted Kotcheff, and Jerry Goodis;
- Historical associations with Bernard Malamud, Ruth Rubin and Earl Robinson;
- Historical associations with the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion, a Canadian battalion that fought against the Fascists in the Spanish Civil War (1937-1938);
- Direct historical associations with left-wing politicians and organizations: Tim Buck, Sam Lipshitz, J. B. Salzberg, Morris Biderman, Label Basman, Manya Lipshitz, Ben Shek, United Jewish People's Order (UJPO), the Labour League, Jewish Women's Labour League (Yiddisher Arbeter Froyen Farein);
- Direct historical associations with the development of the 'summer camp' movement starting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century;
- Direction historical associations with the history and development of Eldorado Park and the Credit Valley;



### Contextual Value:

- Visually, physically and historically linked to its surroundings particularly Eldorado Park;
- Key component with Credit Valley and Eldorado cultural landscape;
- Linked to Creditview Road as a scenic roadscape;
- Frontage of Camp Naivelt facing Creditview Road screened by vegetation and is defined by rural road cross-section;
- Property lines defined by mature hedgerows of mixed vegetation;
- Property is important in defining and maintaining the rural, pastoral and scenic character of the area;
- Rolling hills, dense woodland areas, mature trees, possible old growth white pine and other conifers, mature hedgerows, steep hillsides and ravines, gullies and Credit River define the landform and topography;
- A significant Carolinian woodland area and dense groupings of mature trees contribute to the cultural landscape formed by Camp Naivelt. Species include: old growth white pine, oak, shagbark hickory, beech and maple species, along with dense hedgerows, mature willow trees, ground covers and other vegetation;
- Property is predominately woodland with small open space clearings fronting cottages and surrounding camp facilities;
- Landscape patterns and site characteristics have changed very little since Camp Naivelt was established in the 1930s.
- Internal road and path system of unpaved laneways, footbridge over Credit River and footpaths;
- Page wire fences marking property boundary lines;
- Simple, rustic cottages, natural heritage elements, rolling hills, gullies and rural character at Camp Naivelt form a significant and unique cultural heritage landscape in the City;

### Design / Physical Value:

- Series of small, rustic one-storey wood-frame cottages;

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- Low hip or gable roofs (many with exposed rafter tails); wood sash windows; wood board siding or "Insulbrick" siding, screened sun-porches or small open porches (some with wood railings); wood shutters;
- Many cottages are accented with vibrant paint colours on doors, shutters and trim;
- Original road pattern and site plan comprising cottages arranged around an open common area (Hill 1) or in long rows (Hills 2 and 3);
- Wooden "Camp Naivelt" sign posted at entrance into Hill One of Camp Naivelt, off Creditview Road;
- Camp Naivelt buildings known as "The Ritz";
- Site locations of certain abandoned elements or ruins such as: original Camp Kindervelt (children's camp) infirmary (just west of "The Ritz"); other abandoned cabins
- Surviving section of iron railway track from the Toronto Suburban Radial Railway line, that crosses over a gully inside the subject property;