

CITY OF KELOWNA

SEP 28 2010

ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT

Original to: Communications
Copied: Mayor
 City Manager
Councillors

Mayor Sharon Shepherd & Council
City of Kelowna
1435 Water St.
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

File Number: 1350-01
Initials: *JS* Date: Sep. 28/10

Re: Roadside Memorials

For many months now friends and myself have discussed the growing number of roadside memorials that "honour" a life lost primarily through motor vehicle accidents. While I understand the intent, and do not wish to seem uncaring (because I certainly do care), the truth remains that these memorials are distracting to other drivers, are often in place for years, and are sometimes simply disgraceful.

My case in point is one such memorial which North Glenmore residents see every time they use Longhill and Dilworth Drive going to the mall shopping areas (I have shown the area on the attached map, hidden somewhat in bushes). This memorial is particularly disgraceful and not in any way honouring the young man who lost his life there. It has been there since December 2004 - January 2005, and is covered with dirty decaying remnants of clothing items, sun-bleached plastic flowers, and more seem to litter the ground as well. Interestingly, this young man and his family are apparently from Vernon, and it seems highly unlikely that anyone has visited it in years.

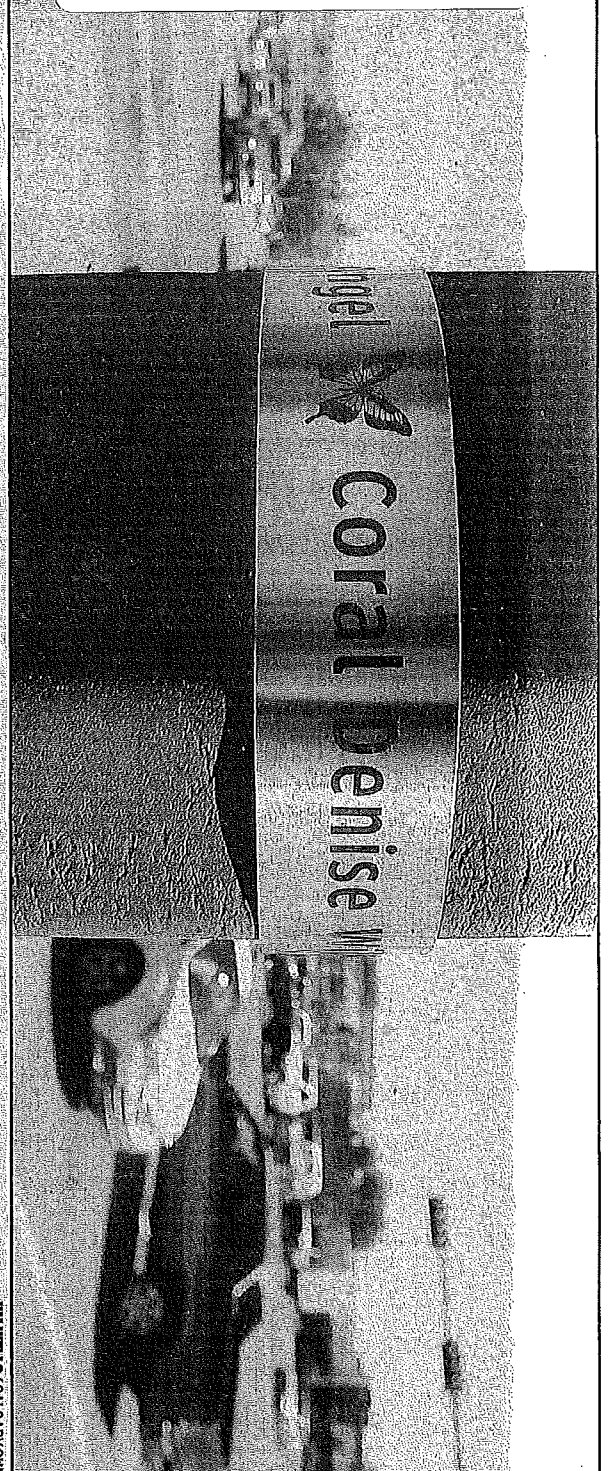
I have always felt that there had to be some "rules" (ie Bylaws) about these memorials that would respect the families' grief while also seeing that they are removed after a certain designated time period, by city works crews. A recent trip to Calgary presented me with the enclosed newspaper story. It seems Calgary has indeed addressed the issue through bylaws and also through a program to provide lasting memorials for a small cost. Therefore, I am sending this to you in the hopes that Kelowna will start a similar program.

I am also hoping that the Longhill memorial can at least be cleaned up and dignified somewhat.

Thank you for your attention.



FROM the
"CALGARY SUN"
27 AUGUST 2010



JIM WELLS/CALGARY SUN

A silver band — or 'Halo' — on the corner of McKnight Blvd and Centre St. N. reminds passers-by of Coral Denise Wilson, who was hit by a vehicle while walking in the intersection in July 2007. The City of Calgary is offering the Halos to grieving families as an alternative to often-distracting makeshift roadside memorials.

Halos replace memorials

City developing its own roadside tributes

RENATO GANDIA
Calgary Sun

Distracting roadside fatality memorials could become a thing of the past as the city unveiled a new program that will help families remember their loved ones more peacefully.

Roadside memorials are allowed in the city for a year, after which crews remove them, but families can now opt to have a metal band called "Halo" installed near the crash site.

Troy McLeod, the city's manager of traffic engineering, said Halo stands for Honour A Loved One, and is a memorial band that's installed around a street light.

Before the program was introduced and, with the absence of the one-year rule, ad hoc markers had been adorning medians and boulevards, and in some cases, their removal by city roads crews

left family members upset.

Coral Denise Wilson was walking in the intersection of 1 St and McKnight Blvd. N.W. in July 2007 when she was hit.

The girl's family has installed a makeshift memorial, but on Thursday the city's first Halo band replaced it. Her mom, Lana Wilson, said it means a lot that the city is willing to put up these halos in lieu of her daughter's

memorial taken down.

"I feel that I didn't want the memorial taken down unless it's going to be replaced with something," she said.

"It honours my daughter and my daughter's life and it shows people this intersection is dangerous and a child died there." McLeod said families have a number of options to memorialize their loved ones.

They can get a memorial park bench, a tree planted and now the Halo, he said.

Family members who want to get a permanent marker installed in lieu of a makeshift memorial have to pay \$200.

City crews leave a tag on temporary roadside memorials to inform families they're removing them at certain dates, giving them the time to call 311 to arrange for a metal band installation.

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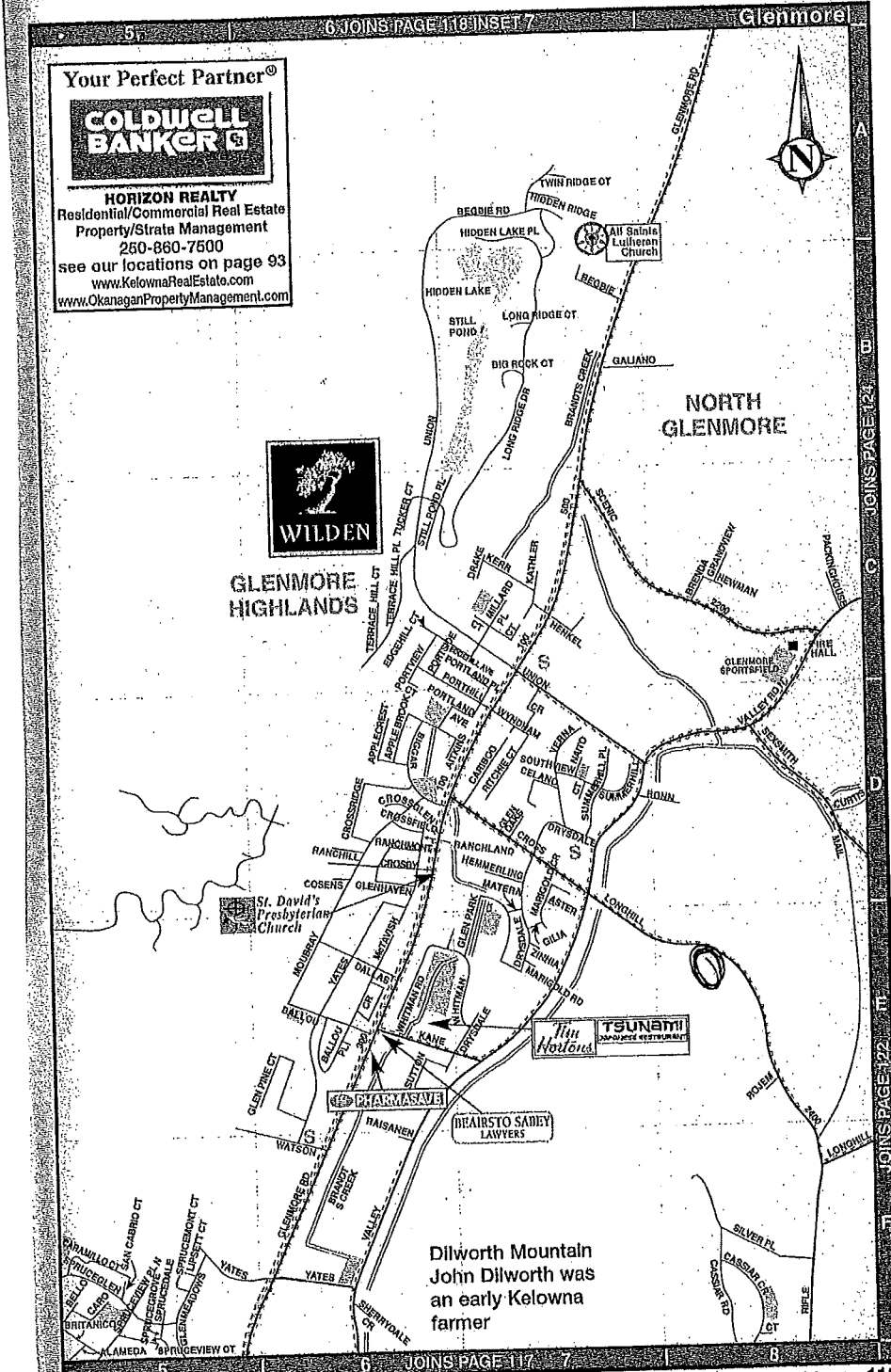
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John Dilworth was
an early Kelowna
farmer