

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

May 23, 2003

To: Toronto East York Community Council, June 10, 2003

From: Joe Halstead, Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

Subject: Installation of Commemorative Plaque to Grace Bagnato.
Trinity-Spadina - Ward 19

Purpose:

To report back to the Toronto East York Community Council on the exact placement of the commemorative plaque for Grace Bagnato as well as the total estimated costs for the installation.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the commemorative plaque honouring Grace Bagnato be placed within the public right of way behind the existing fence, near the path on the Mansfield flank of St. Francis Church, 72 Mansfield Avenue;
- (2) installation of the plaque proceed once an amount of approximately \$1200 is forwarded to the City Treasurer by the Bagnato family, which provides full financial coverage for the plaque; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorised and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

The Toronto East York Community Council requested at their meeting on May 1, 2003 for the Commissioner of Economic Development Culture and Tourism, in consultation with the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, and the local Councillor, to report on the exact placement and estimated costs of the Grace Bagnato commemorative plaque.

Grace Bagnato was born in the United States to Italian parents. She immigrated to Canada with her family in 1905. Grace grew up in an area of struggling immigrant families, located near the CourtHouse and old City Hall. At the age of 14 she married Joseph Bagnato, a leader in the Italian community. While raising her 13 children, Grace learned the languages of Ukranian, Yiddish and Polish, to better communicate with her neighbours and ultimately become the communication link between them.

Grace became the district's interpreter, building bridges of understanding between new immigrants and the English speaking world of government, law courts and society. In 1921, she became the first Italian Canadian, woman court interpreter in Ontario.

Comments:

The preferred location of the plaque is on the Mansfield flank of St. Francis Church. The plaque would be located within the public right of way behind the existing fenced off area, near the path that leads to the front entrance of the Church facing Mansfield Avenue. The plaque will stand about knee high and face upward to be easily accessible to everyone on the sidewalk.

Works and Emergency Services have concurred with the location and dimensions of the plaque and have given their approval.

The price to manufacture and install the plaque is estimated at \$1200 the total costs of which will be covered by the family of Grace Bagnato. Parks and Recreation will take full responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the plaque.

Conclusions:

It is recommended that the commemorative plaque be erected on the Mansfield flank of St Francis Church, 72 Mansfield Street to recognise Grace Bagnato and all of her accomplishments both to her community and the City of Toronto. The plaque will be paid in full by the Grace Bagnato family at a price of approximately \$1200 and installation shall proceed once this amount has been received by the City of Toronto Treasurer.

Contact:

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Joe Halstead
Commissioner, Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

List of Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 - Map of Grace Bagnato Plaque