



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Donation towards playground improvements in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park

Date:	May 16, 2007
To:	Parks and Environment Committee
From:	General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 13 - Parkdale-High Park
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

“Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e” has committed to make an \$80,000 donation to the City of Toronto in January of 2008 to be directed towards improvements to the Sir Casimir Gzowski Park playground.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council accept with thanks the contribution of \$80,000, via the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e”, for playground improvements in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park; and
2. the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, be directed to include a subproject to the 2008 Capital Budget submission to make improvements to the playground in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, for \$80,000.00 gross, funded by the \$80,000 donation from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e”.

Financial Impact

The recommendations will have no financial impact on the 2007 Parks Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget and no net financial impact on the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget.

The proposed subproject to make improvements to the playground in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, for \$80,000.00 gross, and funded by the \$80,000 donation from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e,” will have no net financial impact on the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget submission.

The donation will be primarily directed towards replacing the existing playground equipment in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park, for which the annual maintenance costs will be included in the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Operating Budget submission. Maintenance costs related to any additional playground equipment will be nominal. Thus, no additional Operating Budget funding will be required to service this facility.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

“Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e,” a not-for-profit corporation created by a group of individuals working in Toronto’s Financial District to raise money for selected Toronto-based charitable causes, has selected improvements to the playground in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park as the charitable cause for their 2007 golf tournament.

As a result of being selected as their 2007 golf tournament’s charitable cause, “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e” has committed to make an \$80,000 donation to the City of Toronto to be directed towards improvements to the Sir Casimir Gzowski Park playground.

COMMENTS

As “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e” can only make donations to registered charities, the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, dedicated to raise money for projects undertaken by Toronto and Region Conservation, will accept this donation from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e” and direct it to the City of Toronto to coordinate the playground improvement in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park.

The proposed 2008 playground improvement project of \$80,000 will be fully offset by the donation from “Bay Street Fore A Cau\$e” and will have no net financial impact on the 2008 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget submission.

Recognizing the need for improving children’s play facilities in Toronto, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, staff had identified the playground in Sir Casimir Gzowski Park as being in need of major improvements, although no funds were available from the Capital Budget for such improvements.

Combined with the move and site redevelopment of the Joy Oil building, this donation provides the City of Toronto with another great opportunity to work with an external organization towards improving Sir Casimir Gzowski Park and the western waterfront.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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