

MEMBER MOTION

Rename Bathurst Street south of Queen's Quay West as Eireann Quay

Moved by: Councillor

Vaughan

SUMMARY:

This motion is intended to authorize the renaming Bathurst Street south of Queen's Quay West as Eireann Quay. Bathurst Street south of Queen's Quay West is a minor arterial road that serves the local community and will be the entrance point to Ireland Park when it opens in June 2007.

Eireann is the Irish word for Ireland.

Eireann Quay will signal to all residents the location of Ireland Park on our waterfront. This park will be a key attraction of Toronto's waterfront redevelopment and should be easy for visitors and tourists to locate. The naming of the street as Eireann Quay will not only locate Ireland Park at the foot of Bathurst Street but will signify the importance of the park and the role of the Irish in the development of our city.

In the year 1847, 38,000 Irish emigrants arrived in Toronto, fleeing from famine in their homeland. Many died from typhus and starvation and were buried in Toronto. Many other immigrants owed their lives to the citizens of Toronto who gave them a home. Ireland Park remembers all of them and their contributions and those of their descendents to our city.

Renaming Bathurst Street south of Queen's Quay West will meet the objectives of the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy which states that street names should be after people, places and events of local significance, related to the City and the citizens of Toronto; that commemorate local history and that will strengthen neighbourhood identity. The policy also states that consideration should be given to names that reflect the local area and historic significance.

Toronto City Council has delegated authority for renaming minor arterial roads to Community Council in cases where the Street Naming Policy has been followed.

The City's Street Renaming policy requires that applications for a name change include a petition with the signatures of the property owners that front the street. The City of Toronto is the majority landowner of the properties on Bathurst Street south of Queen's Quay West. The ward councillor has worked in consultation with the broader Bathurst Quay community, the Mayor's Office and the Ireland Fund of Canada to identify a suitable name. Letters seeking support for the renaming have also been sent to the Toronto Port Authority as well as, the City Manager and Deputy City Manager(s).

The City Surveyor has been consulted and circulated the proposed name "Eireann Quay" to the Toronto and East York Preservation Panel, Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and they have no objections to the name.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. subject to the requirements for changing the name of a street set out in Chapter 162-3A and 162-4A of the City of Toronto Municipal Code, the name of Bathurst Street south of Queen's Quay be changed to Eireann Quay; and
2. in the interest of completing the renaming in time for the June 21, 2007 visit of Mary McAleese, the President of Ireland for the opening of Ireland Park, this request be forwarded to City Council for consideration at its meeting on April 23, 2007; and
3. that a by-law enacting the renaming be brought forward to the May 1, 2007 Toronto and East York Community Council meeting with the opportunity for the public to address Council; and
4. that the appropriate staff be directed to undertake any actions required for this change to take effect.

Date March 27, 2007