

Proposed renaming of Main Street Parkette to Stanley G. Grizzle Park

Date:	August 22, 2007
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 31- Beaches-East York
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

Stanley G. Grizzle was an influential black leader within the Canadian labour movement and a Human Rights activist. He was born in Toronto on November 18, 1918 to parents who emigrated in 1911 from Jamaica. Stanley G. Grizzle resided for 20 years at 231 Chisholm Avenue, one block from the Main Street Parkette.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in ensuring that all criteria in the Naming and Renaming Policy has been met and recommends that the Main Street Parkette be renamed the Stanley G. Grizzle Park. This staff report is a matter for which Toronto and East York Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that the Toronto and East York Community Council approve the renaming of Main Street Parkette, located at 21 Chisholm Avenue, to the Stanley G. Grizzle Park.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

COMMENTS

Stanley Grizzle was born in Toronto on November 18, 1918, to parents who emigrated in 1911 from Jamaica. The oldest of seven children, he was forced to drop out of school as a youngster to help support his family. Eventually he found work as a sleeping car porter

on the railways. For 20 years he made up and put away the berths that lined either side of the sleeping-car passageway and was also responsible for various passengers in the private compartment.

Despite the many hardships he faced in life, Mr. Grizzle, a father of six and whose wife, Kathleen, died in 1991, was determined to overcome the various obstacles he encountered.

Stanley Grizzle had quite an impressive career. He was founder of the Railway Porter's Trade Union Council. From 1946 to 1962, he served as an officer of the Toronto CPR Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. He was a delegate to the Toronto Labour Council, a member of the Toronto Labour Committee for Human Rights, associate editor and columnist for a black community newspaper called Contrast and wrote the book "My Name's not George: The story of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in Canada."

In the early 1960s, Stanley Grizzle accepted a position as an Officer with the Ontario Labour Relations Board - a position he held until 1978. That year, he was also the first member of a trade union and the first African-Canadian appointed to the position of Judge in the Canadian Court of Citizenship. Stanley Grizzle received the Order of Ontario in 1990, was inducted into the Canadian Labour Hall of Fame in 1994 and received the Order of Canada in 1995.

By renaming the Main Street Parkette to the Stanley G. Grizzle Park, the residents in the area and the City of Toronto will continue to recognize the many contributions of this remarkable man.

CONTACT

Paul Ronan, Director, Parks, Tel: 416-396-4490, Fax: 416-396-4957, Email: pronan@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Brenda Librecz
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation