

**Proposed renaming of West Mall Park to Dennis Flynn Park**

<b>Date:</b>	August 8th, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Etobicoke Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 3- Etobicoke Centre
<b>Reference Number:</b>	EY16.31

**SUMMARY**

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This staff report is about a matter for which the Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

The purpose of the report is to respond to the request made at the May 6th, 2008 Etobicoke Community Council meeting regarding the renaming of the West Mall Park to Dennis Flynn Park.

The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that the West Mall Park, located at 370 The West Mall, be officially renamed the Dennis Flynn Park in honour of his significant contributions to the Etobicoke District.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in ensuring that all criteria in the Renaming for Parks and Recreation Facilities and Parks Policy have been met.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends** that Etobicoke Community Council approve the renaming of West Mall Park, located at 370 The West Mall, to the Dennis Flynn Park.

**Financial Impact**

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

## **COMMENTS**

Christopher Dennis Flynn was born in Rathcormac, County Cork, Ireland and immigrated to Canada when he was a young child. In 1938, Dennis Flynn enlisted in the Toronto Scottish Regiment and was placed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Parachute Battalion in World War 11. He participated in the D-Day landings and was wounded twice. He walked with a limp due to these injuries. In 1947, he attended the University of Toronto in 1947. After graduating, he joined the City of Toronto's clerk's department and rose to the position of protocol officer.

Dennis Flynn served as Mayor of Etobicoke from 1972 until 1984 when he succeeded Paul Godfrey as Metro Chairman. In 1988, Dennis Flynn ran successfully for Metro Council and remained in this position until 1997.

During his term as Chairman of the former Metropolitan Toronto, a group held a dinner in Dennis Flynn's honour. It was a fund raising effort and he was asked where the monies should be used. He believed the money should be used for the benefit of the community and the Dennis Flynn Foundation was born. Each year a St. Patrick's Day luncheon is held and the proceeds go to the foundation. The funds raised provide assistance to Covenant House, Women's Habitat of Etobicoke, Youth without Shelter and other charities.

Dennis Flynn also served on the Toronto Police Services Board and in 2001 was awarded the Order of Ontario for his distinguished public service. He was also the Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Toronto Scottish Regiment (The Queen Mother's Own). In 2003, during a visit to CFB Petawawa in Pembroke, he suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 79.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Brenda Patterson, General Manager  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation