



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Naming of Public Lanes in Cabbagetown – Phase 1

Date:	March 17, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Wally Kowalenko, City Surveyor
Wards:	Ward 28
Reference Number:	P:\2008\Cluster B\TEC\TE08018 (AFS#3766)

SUMMARY

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

This report recommends that the thirteen names identified in this report be approved to identify the public lanes located in the area bounded by Sherbourne Street, Carlton Street, Parliament Street and Shuter Street. Naming the lanes will facilitate in the dispatch of Emergency Services to the lanes and improve community safety.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Surveyor recommends that:

- (1) The names Doctor O Lane, Silkweed Lane, Nuthatch Lane, Catbird Lane, Woodward Evans Lane, Hagan Lane, Calgie Lane, Drovers Lane, Verner Lane, Callaghan Lane, Heads Lane, Windeyer Lane and Nighthawk Lane be approved to identify public lanes located in the area bounded by Sherbourne Street, Carlton Street, Parliament Street and Shuter Street; and
- (2) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction of one or more naming by-laws.

Financial Impact

The costs of the street name signs can be accommodated in the Transportation Services budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

We have a request from the Cabbagetown Preservation Association (240 Seaton Street Toronto, Ontario M5A 2T4) to name up to 42 public lanes in the Cabbagetown district of Ward 28. Staff have been working with the Cabbagetown Preservation Association and Councillor Pam McConnell on this initiative, which is scheduled to be completed in five phases over the next several months.

The Cabbagetown Preservation Association (CPA) has written in part that - “The laneways are unique heritage elements of the Victorian plan and existing historic streetscapes. They are subject to regular vehicular and pedestrian use today and the potential benefits of naming and signing to the public-at-large include improvements to: heritage resource identification, heritage resource protection, education through historic references, neighbourhood watch/child-safe initiatives, public navigation, public safety, municipal tree planting projects, bylaw enforcement, general traffic safety, parking enforcement, road cleaning, City of Toronto maintenance and essential services, utility management (telephone, cable, hydro, water), EMS (police, fire and ambulance) response and EMS personnel safety where the proper and timely identification of any laneway by name should not be undervalued.”

The Phase 1 lanes to be named are shown on Attachment No. 1. The background information on each proposed name is outlined in Attachment No. 2.

COMMENTS

The proposed names have been circulated for comment and are acceptable to Councillor Pam McConnell, the Toronto and East York Preservation Panel, Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

The names conform with the Criteria For Name Selection, as set out in City Council’s street naming policy:

1. to honour and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City of Toronto
2. to commemorate local history, places, events or culture
3. to strengthen neighbourhood identity
4. to recognize native wildlife, flora, fauna or natural features related to the community and the City of Toronto

The proposed names are consistent with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy approved by City Council at its meeting held on August 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2000 (Clause 9, Report 15 of the Works Committee, as amended) and should therefore be approved for identifying the public lanes.

CONTACT

Desmond Christopher, Supervisor, Street and Parcel Mapping
Phone: 416-392-1831, Fax: 416-392-0081, E-mail: dchristo@toronto.ca

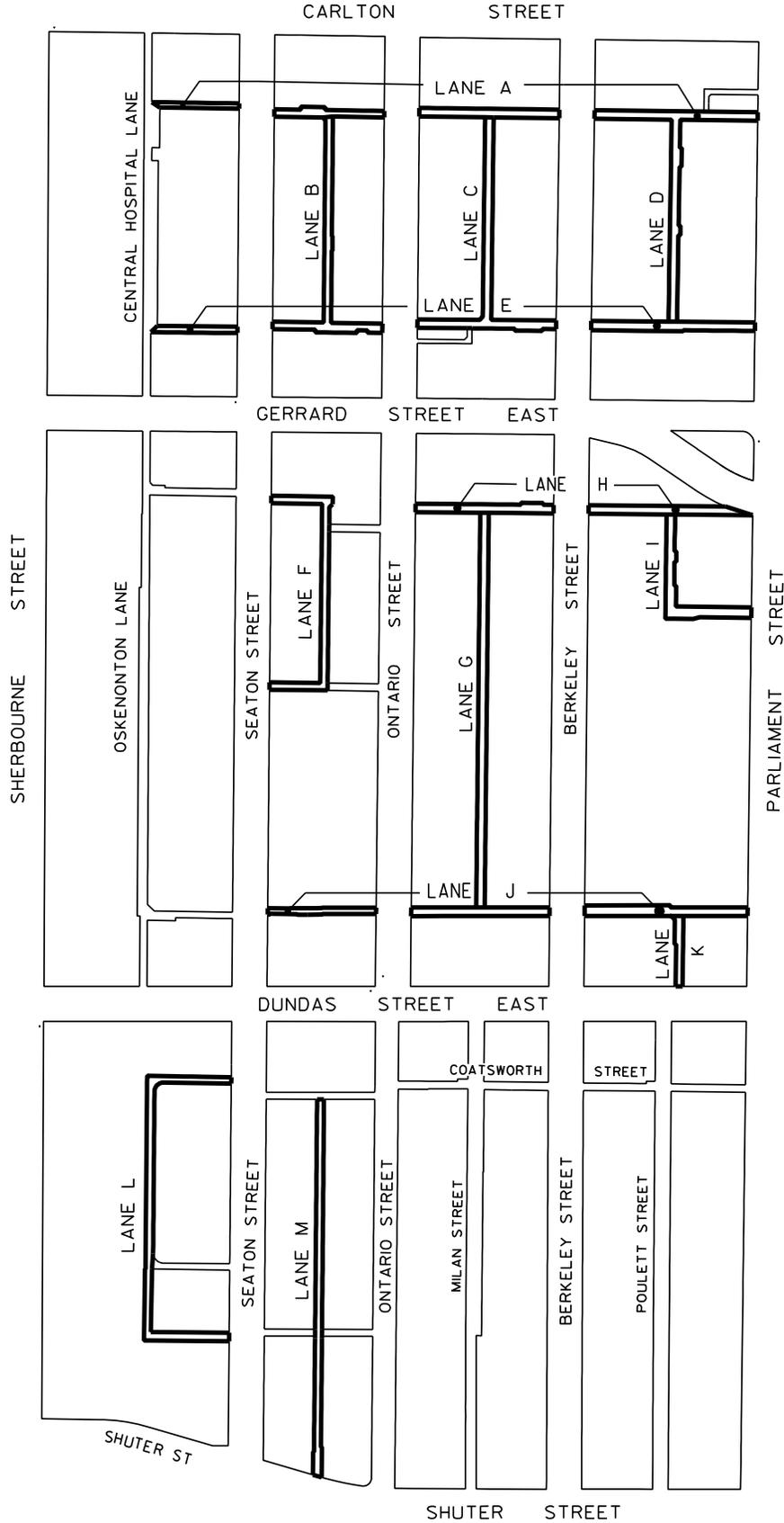
SIGNATURE

W. (Wally) Kowalenko
City Surveyor

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 – Map
Attachment No. 2 – Names and Background Information

Attachment No. 1



CITY OF TORONTO
 SURVEY AND MAPPING SERVICES
 WARD 28 MARCH 11, 2008
 CABBAGETOWNP1.DGN MAP:51H12
 FILE:1902.22.28 DRAWN:B.HALL

- LANE I - VERNER LANE
- LANE J - CALLAGHAN LANE
- LANE K - HEADS LANE
- LANE L - WINDEYER LANE
- LANE M - NIGHTHAWK LANE

- LANE E - WOODWARD EVANS LANE
- LANE F - HAGAN LANE
- LANE G - CALGIE LANE
- LANE H - DROVERS LANE

- LANE A - DOCTOR O LANE
- LANE B - SILKWEED LANE
- LANE C - NUTHATCH LANE
- LANE D - CATBIRD LANE

Attachment No. 2

PROPOSED LANE NAMES AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LANE A - “DOCTOR O LANE” after Oronhyatekha (“Burning Sky”) M.D., who was born into the Mohawk tribe and baptized as Peter Martin. Oronhyatekha graduated from the University of Toronto’s medical school in 1866 and is thought to be the first native doctor in Canada to train and practice in western medicine. In 1878, Dr. O (as he was known), joined the fraternal organization known as the Independent Order of Foresters (IOF) where he held the position of CEO for over 25 years. By 1887, Dr. O had established a medical practice in Napanee. During his career, Dr. Oronhyatekha represented the Six Nations and delivered the welcoming address to HRH The Prince of Wales. By Royal invitation, he studied at Oxford University. Dr. O is remembered for his residency at 211 Carlton Street. He died in 1907 and a memorial service was held at Massey Hall to capacity crowds.

LANE B - “SILKWEED LANE” after the wildflower also known as Common Milkweed that is found in disturbed natural areas such as roadsides like the laneways of Cabbagetown as well as old fields and waste areas. It is a Eudicot of the Dogbane family.

LANE C - “NUTHATCH LANE” after the bird whose common name was derived by the habit of storing food inside the crevices of mature trees. At a later time, Nuthatches retrieve the stored food using their bills to hammer the crevices open. They are a common songbird in Cabbagetown being found in gardens and at feeders. Nuthatches are Passeriformes of the Sittidae/Nuthatche family.

LANE D - “CATBIRD LANE” after the Passeriformes of the Mimidae/Mockingbird and Thrasher family. The popular name Catbird recognizes the birds’ ability to mimic the calls of over 44 other avian species and for its ability to sound a cat-like mewing call. Successional forests, streamsides and residential areas such as those of the Don Valley and Cabbagetown neighborhood are attractive habitats to the Catbird.

LANE E - “WOODWARD EVANS LANE” after Torontonians James Woodward, a medical electrician, and Matthew Evans, a gentleman, who filed a patent for the first light bulb on July 24, 1874. Together, they constructed the first lamp with a rod of carbon placed between electrodes in a glass bulb filled with nitrogen. Subjects of public ridicule, they received little support for their work. Woodward obtained a U.S. patent in 1876. In 1879, Thomas Edison purchased the patent from Woodward and Evans as well as other interested parties. The larger houses of today’s Cabbagetown, such as those found on Sherbourne Street and Carlton Street, were among the first in the City of Toronto to be electrically lighted.

LANE F - “HAGAN LANE” after Frederick Hagan who was born in 1918. By the age of 16, Frederick’s father had died. He dropped out of school to take employment at a paper-box factory in order to lend support to his widowed mother and 7 siblings. Later, he studied at the Ontario College of Art (O.C.A.) and during that time he sketched and

painted in his garage studio and on the streets of Cabbagetown. By the age of 28, Hagan taught at O.C.A. and continued teaching until his retirement in 1983. Hagan was given the Royal Canadian Academy of Art's Medal in 1998. Hagan died in 2003. Today, he is remembered as a resident of 262 Ontario Street and for his works often displayed by the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Frederick Horsman Varley Gallery in Markham, Ontario.

LANE G - "CALGIE LANE" after the Calgie family of Cabbagetown. The Calgies once operated a general store at Berkeley Street and Dundas Street East. The Calgie's store, like many local stores, served as an early gathering place for all ages. It was not uncommon for such establishments to offer credit, short-term loans and bridge financing to residents in need of funds. While not a formal lending institution, the general stores of Cabbagetown exemplified the challenging economic circumstances under which many Cabbagetowners lived and the standard of personal attention given to them as clientele.

LANE H - "DROVERS LANE" after the once popular occupation of some Torontonians who drove herds of livestock to market. Such occupational listings frequently occur alongside the names of Cabbagetown residents in early City of Toronto telephone directories. The profession is no longer a common occurrence nor is the term commonly used. As such, the term reflects everyday life in early Toronto.

LANE I - "VERNER LANE" after John Verner, the owner of the popular Cabbagetown store at 283 Parliament Street (demolished). J. Verner Mc Aree, the nephew of the owner, used the store as a primary setting in his book *Cabbagetown Store*. The work records the writer's upbringing with his Uncle John and Aunt Polly. Together, they lived onsite and operated their business from the 1870s to World War I. The store was known to take credit and issue no interest loans to their Cabbagetown clientele. While not a formal lending institution, the general stores of Cabbagetown exemplified the challenging economic circumstances under which many Cabbagetowners lived and the standard of personal attention given to them as clientele of the store.

LANE J - "CALLAGHAN LANE" after Morley Callaghan who was born in 1903 to an Irish Catholic family. Callaghan grew up on Belshaw Place in Cabbagetown and was later educated at the University of Toronto. Callaghan attended Osgoode Hall in the mid-1920s, but never engaged in the practice of law. Instead, Callaghan worked at the *Toronto Star*, where he was a junior reporter. In his time there, he met writer Ernest Hemingway who was supportive of his craft. In 1928, Callaghan's first novel, *Strange Fugitive*, hit the shelves and his subsequent popularity garnered him the informal title of Canada's first urban novelist. By the 1950s, Callaghan mapped his skills as a writer to the emerging broadcast industry and thereby became known to a much larger audience. His writings continued to be successful and in 1951 Callaghan received Canada's Governor General's Literary Award for his book *The Loved and the Lost*. A later success was his 1963 memoir, *That Summer In Paris*. Callaghan achieved the Companion of the Order of Canada. He died in 1990. Barry Callaghan, son of Morley Callaghan concurs with the naming proposal,

LANE K – “HEADS LANE” after Thomas Head, a plumber and tinsmith whose business occupied the premises at 316 Parliament Street. Head promised prompt jobbing and satisfaction to his Cabbagetown clientele. He was a leader in his trades offering service for the modern conveniences of interior running water and furnace heating often installing such things for the first time in many homes.

LANE L – “WINDEYER LANE” after the architect R. V. Windeyer (of Windeyer and Falloon, Architects) who designed All Saint’s Church. Church officials and members of the community approached Windeyer and negotiations led to the signing of a contract on March 13, 1874 with Lionel York named as the contractor. Windeyer was asked at a later date to design the Sunday School and Boys’ Hall additions. The majority of his work survives and the Church continues to be a landmark (with a portion of the south elevation abutting the laneway in question). The building has been featured in Toronto’s Open Doors event and continues to be a landmark building.

LANE M - “NIGHTHAWK LANE” after the Caprimulgidae of the Caprimulgidae/Nightjar family. Nighthawks are found in Cabbagetown and other urban areas in Southern Ontario.