



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Proposed naming of parklands adjacent to Walter Stewart Library to True Davidson Park

Date:	May 20, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks , Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 29- Toronto-Danforth
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

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 a request made by Councillor Ootes to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation regarding the naming of parklands situated at 170 Memorial Park Avenue and adjacent to Walter Stewart Library to True Davidson Park.

True Davidson served as the first female Reeve of the Borough of East York from 1960-1962. She was elected the Mayor of the amalgamated Borough of East York in 1966. Naming the parklands to True Davidson Park is an opportunity to recognize her contributions to the City of Toronto.

The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that the naming of the parklands adjacent to Walter Stewart library to True Davidson Park.

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

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that the Toronto and East York Community Council approve the naming of the parklands situated at 170 Memorial Park Avenue to True Davidson Park.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

Jean Gertrude Davidson (1901-1978), known as “True,” led a varied life as a teacher, writer and politician. After moving to East York in 1947, True Davidson served on the East York Board of Education, becoming the first woman to chair the Board in 1952. Following her election to East York Council in 1958, True Davidson served as the first female Reeve of the Borough of East York from 1960-1962. She was elected the Mayor of the amalgamated Borough of East York in 1966. She championed educational and cultural programs in East York, including the creation of the East York Foundation and the establishment of the Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Arts Centre.

True Davidson founded and served as the first director of the East York Foundation, a fund-raising organization for cultural, educational and recreational programs. During her political career, with forays into municipal, provincial and federal politics, True Davidson nearly equalled John Diefenbaker’s record of 10 consecutive election wins. Following her receipt of an honorary degree from the University of Toronto’s Victoria College in 1971, she was awarded the Order of Canada in 1973 and the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977.

After her death in September 1978, True Davidson lay in state in the East York Council Chambers. The True Davidson Collection of Canadian Literature was established at York University, based on the earlier donation of her personal papers. In November 1997, at the last meeting of the East York Council, prior to the amalgamation of the new City of Toronto, the East York Council Chamber was renamed the True Davidson Council Chamber.

True Davidson was a positive influence on the community and encouraged excellence through her wisdom, generous spirit and great love of life.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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