



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Proposed renaming of Davenport Square Park to The Tollkeeper's Park

Date:	May 20, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 21-St Paul's West
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 the request made at the May 6th, 2008 Toronto and East York Community Council meeting regarding the renaming of the Davenport Square Park to The Tollkeeper's Park.

Renaming the Davenport Square Park to The Tollkeeper's Park is an opportunity to recognize an important element of the City's history and formalize a name that is already commonly used by community members. The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that the Davenport Square Park be officially renamed The Tollkeeper's 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 renaming of Davenport Square Park to The Tollkeeper's Park.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

In the 1800's, in what was then known as Upper Canada, private companies were contracted to build, improve and maintain roads, in return for which they were permitted to collect tolls from the roads' users.

One of the tollgates, the oldest such structure surviving anywhere in Canada, was recently rediscovered after more than a century and a half of various moves and transformations. Research has shown that Tollgate #3 was operating from at least 1850. The Cottage has been dated at 1835 as it has construction features from the 1820s to 1840s. An 1875 painting by Arthur Cox shows it on the east side of the road allowance. By 1895 it had been relocated to a lot two blocks to the east to begin a second phase as an ordinary residence.

When the lot came under redevelopment, the building was threatened. The Community History Project began raising funds to restore the historical treasure. The Toronto Transit Commission agreed to house the cottage on its Wychwood Streetcar Barns Site.

Eventually, Toronto City Council gave permission for the Cottage to be placed as close as possible to its original site and the Cottage was moved to its current and permanent location in Davenport Square Park on the NW corner of Davenport Road and Bathurst Street.

Renaming the Davenport Square Park to the Tollkeeper's Park is an opportunity to recognize an important element of the City's history, and formalize a name that is already commonly used by community members.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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