



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Renaming of a Portion of Duncan Street and Placing of “Mirvish” Recognition Signs

Date:	June 5, 2008
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	W. (Wally) Kowalenko, City Surveyor
Wards:	Ward 20
Reference Number:	P:\2008\Cluster B\TEC\TE08032 (AFS #7804)

SUMMARY

This report responds to the January 15, 2008, request of the Toronto and East York Community Council to rename a portion of Duncan Street, between King Street West and Pearl Street, “Ed Mirvish Way” and to place “Mirvish” recognition signs in this vicinity. The street renaming proposal does not fully conform to the existing policy and requires City Council’s approval.

The General Manager of Park, Forestry and Recreation will be reporting separately with respect to the renaming of the Bathurst Subway parkette to “Anne and Ed Mirvish Parkette”.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Surveyor recommends that City Council:

- (1) approve the renaming of Duncan Street, between King Street West and Pearl Street, as “Ed Mirvish Way”; and
- (2) authorize City Officials to take the necessary action including the introduction of a by-law.

Financial Impact

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

DECISION HISTORY

The Toronto and East York Community Council requested reports on the naming of the parkette adjacent to the Bathurst Street subway “Ed and Anne Mirvish Parkette”, the

renaming of Duncan Street (from King Street West to Pearl Street) to “Ed Mirvish Way” and the placing of “Mirvish” recognition signs.

Additional information on this matter can be found at the following links:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/te/minutes/2008-01-15-te12-mn.pdf>

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-9832.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Deputy Mayor Pantalone and Councillor Vaughan have been contacted by the family of Ed Mirvish who passed away on July 11, 2007, with regards to appropriate commemoration of the Mirvish contribution to Toronto and Canada.

The Mirvish family is well known for “Honest Ed’s”, an affordable retail outlet since 1948, and for leading the theatrical renaissance in Toronto including saving the Royal Alexander Theatre from demolition in 1963, the building of the Princess of Wales Theatre on King Street West, and the operation of the Canon Theatre on Yonge Street.

COMMENTS

The proposal involves the renaming of the southerly block of Duncan Street, between King Street West and Pearl Street, as shown on Attachment No. 1. There are two properties directly affected by the proposed renaming: 8 Duncan Street, owned by a Mirvish company; and 11 Duncan Street, which is currently occupied by two restaurants.

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) and amended on June 1, 2001, sets out the guidelines and criteria for the naming and renaming of streets and lanes. The Duncan Street renaming proposal does not comply with the following provisions of Council’s policy:

Naming and Renaming of Streets and Lanes

1. The general policy is that the names of streets and lanes should not be changed.
2. The renaming of a specific street or lane should only be considered when duplication of the name occurs within the City of Toronto or the surrounding municipalities and when renaming would generally improve the City’s administration of essential services and would be in the public’s best interest. Duplication of the name occurs when there are two or more unconnected portions of a street with the same name.

Criteria for Name Selection

4. Only a person’s last name should be used as a street name unless additional identification is necessary to prevent duplication with an existing street name in Toronto and surrounding municipalities.

Street Type Designations

1. Street type designations, depending on roadway function, length and configuration exist to define the character of a street. The following designations should be consulted:
 - (b) Drive, Trail, Way – for streets which are winding or curved.

The property owner at 11 Duncan Street has been informally notified of the street renaming proposal, and to date we have received no objections. The proposed name “Ed Mirvish Way” has also been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

The members of the Toronto and East York Preservation Panel have commented that placing "Mirvish" recognition signs and renaming the parkette at Bathurst Street to "Ed and Anne Mirvish Parkette" would be appropriate. Some Panel members consider renaming part of Duncan Street inappropriate since the proposal does comply with parts of the City's street naming policy and renaming of a portion of a continuous street could contribute to confusion for motorists and pedestrians navigating through the City. The specific comments of the Panel are set out in Attachment No. 2.

The proposed street name otherwise conforms with Item 1 (a), Criteria For Name Selection, as set out in City Council's street naming policy – “to honour and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City of Toronto”. Before the southerly portion of Duncan Street can be renamed, City Council will have to approve the proposal since it does not fully comply with policy.

The placement of appropriate “Mirvish” recognition signs to further recognize the Mirvish contribution to Toronto will be discussed with the Mirvish family, Deputy Mayor Pantalone, Councillor Vaughan and the Chief of Protocol. It should be noted that there are five “Mirvish Walkway” signs along the north side of King Street West between Simcoe Street and John Street.

Notice to rename the portion of Duncan Street, under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, will be given in accordance with the notice requirement set out in Chapter 162-3A of the City of Toronto Municipal Code. Once the renaming by-law has been passed and registered, staff will notify the affected property owners, Canada Post, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, City divisions, agencies and utilities of the new addresses and make arrangements to have the street signs replaced.

CONTACT

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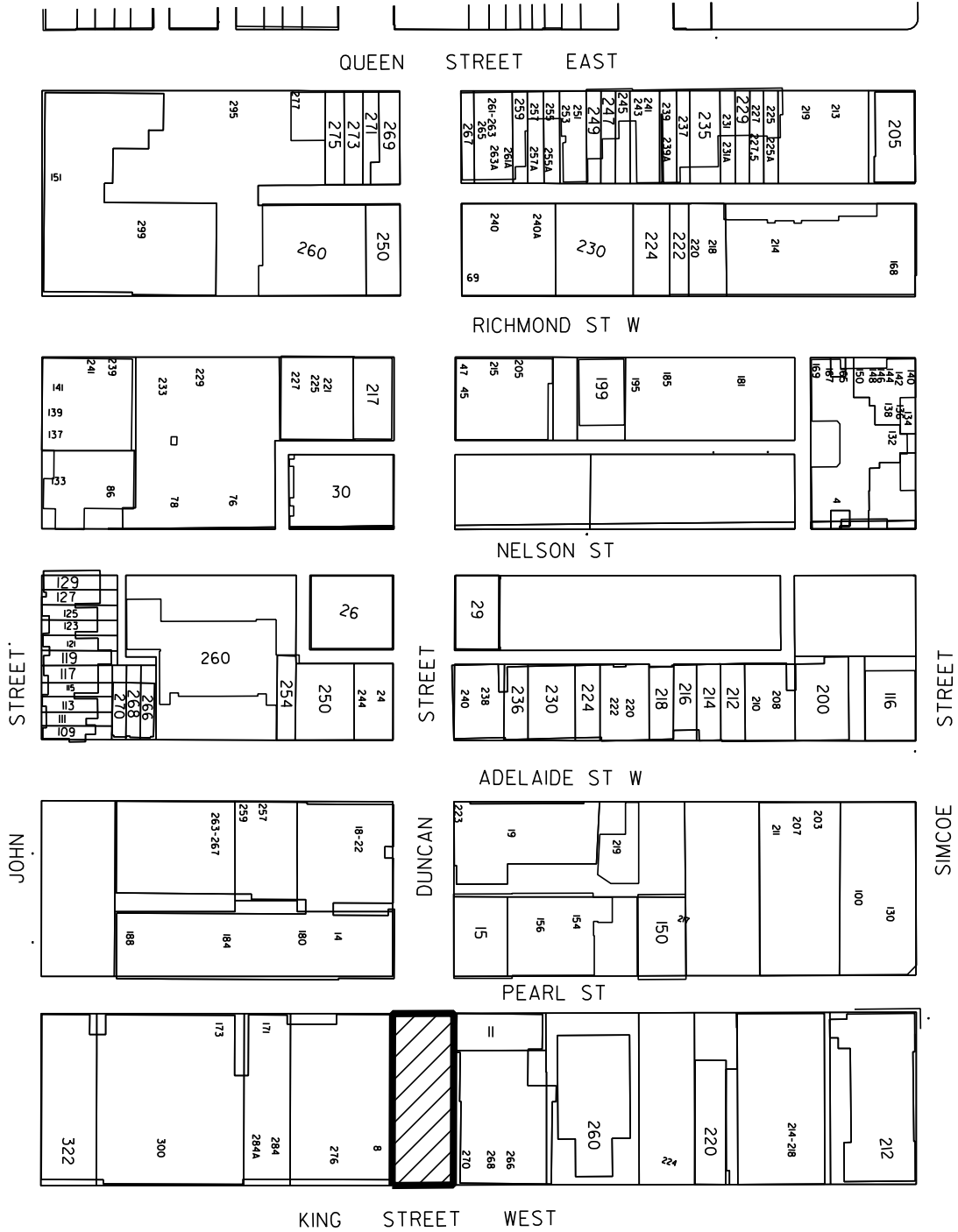
SIGNATURE

W. (Wally) Kowalenko
City Surveyor

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments – Map, Comments

Attachment No.1



PORTION OF DUNCAN STREET PROPOSED TO BE RENAMED



CITY OF TORONTO
SURVEY AND MAPPING SERVICES
WARD 20 MAY 15, 2008
DUNCANST.DGN FILE:1902.22.20
MAP:50G22 DRAWN:B.HALL

Attachment No. 2

Comments and Information Provided by the Toronto and East York Preservation Panel

The Toronto and East York Preservation have commented that the placing of "Mirvish" recognition signs and renaming the parkette of Bathurst Street to "Ed and Anne Mirvish Parkette" as appropriate, however some members found the renaming inappropriate for several reasons. The reasons are:

- erasing vibrant history of the area,
- in conflict with Street Name Designation 1(b) where a "Way" should be winding or curved
- in conflict with Criteria for Name Selection 4 where only a person's last name should be used
- renaming of portion of street becomes confusing while navigating through the city

One suggestion was to have additional commemorative signs above the existing Duncan Street sign.

Duncan Street was named after Duncan Cameron, member of Legislative Council of Upper Canada, Justice of the Peace, founder of St. James Church, and Registrar for the County of York. Duncan Cameron, given that he sent a good number of people to the gallows, was not always the most popular public figure in Old York as others were, which may explain, in part, the lesser profile of the street that bears his name.

Duncan Street does not appear on city maps until the 1860s, where it is only a small street connecting Queen Street and Richmond Streets (extending south to Front Street in subsequent years). Peter and John Street pre-date Duncan Street by several decades, as it appears that several (now destroyed) buildings were in its path during the earlier years (1830-1860).

Duncan Street would have been right in the middle of the old Upper Canada College (UCC) site on King Street. The school property went from King to Adelaide and from John to Simcoe. One of the buildings at the corner of Duncan and King still has foundations of the old UCC building (dating 1833).

There is a record indicating that in 1858, two private citizens (Mrs. A. McDonnell and Alexander McDonald) petitioned the City for "monies expended in the grading of Nelson and Duncan Streets", which suggests that Duncan Street (between Queen and Adelaide) may have been privately owned and expropriated by the City around this time. UCC was demolished in 1900, after which time Duncan Street was extended gradually south to Front Street.