



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Proposed Naming of Rita Cox Park

<b>Date:</b>	October 1, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 14 - Parkdale-High Park
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

### 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 by community members on naming of a park after Dr. Rita Cox a community activist, librarian and renowned storyteller.

The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that the parkland located on 14 Machells Avenue be officially renamed “Rita Cox Park” in honour of her significant contributions to the community and the City of Toronto.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in ensuring that all criteria in the Naming and 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 the Toronto and East York Community Council approve the naming of the parkland located at 14 Machells Avenue to “Rita Cox Park.”

## **Financial Impact**

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

## **Comments**

Dr. Rita Cox joined Toronto Public Library as a children's librarian in 1960. In 1974, she became the head of Parkdale Branch, where she remained until her retirement in 1995. Dr. Cox also launched literacy programs and other initiatives that promoted multiculturalism and literacy throughout Toronto.

In 1973, Dr. Cox pioneered the Black Heritage and West Indian Resource Collection, which was renamed the Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection in 1998. It soon became one of the most comprehensive collections of its kind in Canada. Today, it continues to be a source of pride in the community.

Dr. Cox is a renowned storyteller who has enchanted and entertained audiences across the world. She has also maintained the library's storytelling legacy by training a whole new generation of storytellers, many of whom are current library staff.

Dr. Rita Cox has won numerous awards, including the 1996 Canadian Library Association Public Service Award and the Black Achievement Award. In 1997, Dr. Cox was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for her outstanding work in storytelling and literacy. She is also the recipient of honorary degrees from York and Wilfrid Laurier Universities.

By naming this parkland in honour of Dr. Rita Cox, we will continue to recognize her work and dedication to the community and City of Toronto.

## **CONTACT**

Paul Ronan, Director, Parks, Tel: 416-396-4490, Fax: 416-396-4957, Email: [pronan@toronto.ca](mailto:pronan@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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Brenda Patterson  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation