

## **Proposed renaming of McLevin Community Park**

<b>Date:</b>	April 8, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Scarborough Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 42 - Scarborough-Rouge River
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:/2010/Cluster A/PFR/SC34-042710-AFS#11784

### **SUMMARY**

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

This report responds to the request made at Scarborough Community Council, regarding the renaming of McLevin Community Park situated at 180 McLevin Avenue in honour of Major Muhammad Abbas Ali.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that McLevin Community Park situated at 180 McLevin Avenue be officially renamed “Major Abbas Ali Park” in honour of Major Abbas Ali’s significant contributions to the McLevin 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 Policy have been met.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that Scarborough Community Council:**

1. Rename McLevin Community Park located at 180 McLevin Avenue to “Major Abbas Ali Park” in honour of Major Abbas Ali’s significant contributions to the McLevin Community and City of Toronto.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

Scarborough Community Council, at its meeting of November 10, 2009, considered a letter from Councillor Raymond Cho relating to the request to rename McLevin Community Park situated at 180 McLevin Avenue, to “Major Abbas Ali Park” and referred the matter to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report to Scarborough Community Council. (Item SC30.27)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/sc/decisions/2009-11-10-sc30-dd.htm>

## **COMMENTS**

Muhammad Abbas Ali, commonly known as Major Abbas, was a retired officer in the Pakistan Army. In 1993, he founded the Muslim Welfare Centre, located at 100 McLevin Avenue, which supports and works with residents from all backgrounds and religions who require assistance. The Centre has helped over 6,000 families in need through its food banks in Scarborough, Mississauga and Whitby. It also supports a 40-bed women’s shelter in Whitby, free health clinics in Toronto and a “Water Exploration Program” which helps to create wells in remote areas of the world.

Major Abbas had a unique zest for life and participated in numerous fundraising “adventures.” In 1987, Major Abbas participated in a walk in the United Arab Emirates to support the World Health Organization. While in his early 70’s, he was involved in several charity walks in Canada to support the Canadian Arthritis Society. At the age of 77, he participated in a skydiving fundraising event at 10,500 feet, with proceeds benefiting the Support a Child-Save the Nation fund.

Major Abbas was the recipient of numerous awards for his charity work. They included: the UNICEF Award for service to children; the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship Award for his tireless work in the community, the Commendation on Commitment to Voluntarism from the then Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Michael Harris; Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s Golden Jubilee Award and the Outstanding Asian-Canadian Community Award. A father of seven, he is survived by his wife Sarwar Abbas, 77, who also devotes her time to residents who require assistance and supported Major Abbas in all his projects.

It is noted that as part of the research and due diligence process carried out by staff under the parks renaming policy, in particular a circulation of the proposal to the surrounding community (distributed to 1,000 residents), a number of concerns to the proposed park renaming were received.

Nonetheless, under the current policies, renaming this park in the community where Major Muhammad Abbas Ali dedicated a significant part of his volunteer efforts is a tribute to all his accomplishments, achievements and his many years of volunteered service.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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