



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Proposed naming of Alex Murray Parkette

Date:	February 18, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 27 - Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

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 Toronto and East York Community Council (TE28.59) at its October 13, 2009 meeting, regarding the naming of the parkette situated at 107 Crescent Road in honour of Alex Murray, a forty year board member of the South Rosedale Ratepayers Association.

The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that the parkette situated at 107 Crescent Road be officially named “ Alex Murray Parkette” in honour of Mr. Murray’s significant contributions to the South Rosedale 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.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Name the parkette located at 107 Crescent Road, “Alex Murray Parkette” in honour of Mr. Murray’s significant contributions to the South Rosedale community and the City of Toronto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council, at its meeting of October 13, 2009, considered a letter from Councillor Kyle Rae relating to the naming of the parkette situated at 107 Crescent Road to “Alex Murray Parkette,” and referred the matter to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report to Community Council. (Item TE28.59).

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2009/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-23897.pdf>

COMMENTS

A formal request has been submitted to the City of Toronto to name the parkette located at 107 Crescent Road in honour of Mr. Alex Murray. Educated as an urban and social change historian, Mr. Murray co-founded the Department of Urban Studies and the faculty of Environmental Studies at York University.

Mr. Murray has resided in the Rosedale community since 1963 and has been instrumental in shaping various elements of South Rosedale in particular. In 1960, Mr. Murray realized that the South Rosedale Ratepayers Association (SRRA) had significant potential to be a positive influence in the community. As a board member of the SRRA, he played a key role in establishing South Rosedale as Toronto’s first District Heritage designation. The Association received a Community Heritage award in 2003 for the time and research spent on composing and archiving a remarkable database of South Rosedale. Mr. Murray was also prominently involved in negotiations for the redevelopment of the Canadian Pacific Railway Marathon lands at Summerhill, which formed a portion of South Rosedale’s northern boundary.

In the 1970s, Mr. Murray was Chairman of the Toronto Chapter of the Community Planning Association of Canada, a cross-country organization for developers and planners. In the 1970s and early 1980s, Mr. Murray served as Chairman of the National Housing Subcommittee of the Canadian Council on Social Development.

Mr. Murray is in his 81st year and still sits on the SRRA board of directors and continues to be one of its most active contributors. Naming this parkette within Mr. Murray’s community is a tribute to all the community accomplishments he has achieved through his many hours of volunteered service.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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