

Proposed renaming of Harbord Park to Art Eggleton Park

Date:	April 8, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 19 – Trinity-Spadina
Reference Number:	P:/2010/Cluster A/PFR/TE33-042710-AFS#11783

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 regarding the renaming of Harbord Park situated at 323 Harbord Street in honour of Art Eggleton, Toronto's longstanding Mayor and later a member of the Canadian House of Commons and the Senate.

The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that Harbord Park situated at 323 Harbord Street be officially renamed "Art Eggleton Park" in honour of Mr. Eggleton's significant contributions to 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. Rename Harbord Park located at 323 Harbord Street to "Art Eggleton Park" in honour of Mr. Eggleton's significant contributions to 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 February 9, 2010, considered a letter from Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone, relating to the renaming of Harbord Park situated at 323 Harbord Street, to “Art Eggleton Park” and referred the matter to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report to Toronto and East Community Council. (Item TE31.72)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/te/decisions/2010-02-09-te31-dd.htm>

COMMENTS

Art Eggleton was born and raised in Toronto where he worked as an accountant before being elected to City Council in 1969. He has served the people of Canada and the City of Toronto in public office for over 35 years.

For 22 years he served as a member of Toronto City Council and the Metropolitan Toronto Council, with most of those years on the Executive Committees of both Councils. Between 1973 and 1980, he was appointed to the post of City Budget Chief, the member of Council responsible for financial matters. From 1980 to 1991, he was elected Mayor of Toronto, and became the longest serving Mayor in Toronto’s history.

Subsequent to his service on Municipal Council and as Mayor, the Hon. Art Eggleton served 11 years in the House of Commons as the member for York Centre. First elected in 1993, he was soon appointed to Cabinet. On March 24, 2005, Mr. Eggleton was appointed to the Senate of Canada. He currently serves as Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, as well as its Subcommittee on Cities, and is a member of the Standing Committee on National Finance.

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 1,300 residents), some concerns were expressed on renaming the park, as the name “Harbord” has a long history that dates back to the early 1800s.

Nonetheless, under the current policies, renaming this park in the community and ward that Mr. Eggleton served as the local Alderman in is a fitting tribute to this prominent Torontonians and his many accomplishments, achievements, and community activism.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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