

MOTION**Request for Staff Report to proceed with the Official Naming of the Parkette at 769 Broadview Avenue to “John F. Candy Parkette.”****Moved by:****Councillor Ootes****SUMMARY:**

The City of Toronto has a history of commemorating and acknowledging the accomplishments of those Torontonians who have had an impact on society in their respective fields, from politics, social change, humanitarianism to history, entertainment, business and industry. In keeping with these practices, it would seem a fitting tribute to the legendary comedic actor John F. Candy to officially name the parkette located at 769 Broadview Avenue after him.

John Franklin Candy (October 31, 1950 – March 4, 1994) was a Canadian comedian and actor. He was born in Newmarket and raised in Toronto, the son of Evangeline (née Aker) and Sidney James Candy. He attended Neil McNeil High School, an all-boys Catholic school in Toronto, where he played football. He then enrolled in a media/journalism program at Centennial College in 1968 and found his true talent as a television performer/entertainer. Mr. Candy's first ever television performance was at the CBC's Toronto headquarters, where he appeared in classic children's shows such as "Dr. Zunk and the Zunkins." This led to a role on "Coming Up Rosie," which saw Mr. Candy cast alongside Dan Aykroyd and Catherine O'Hara.

Mr. Candy quickly rose to fame as a member of the Toronto, Ontario branch of Second City. He further gained wide North American popularity as a cast member on the Second City Television program (SCTV). NBC picked up the show in 1981 and it quickly became an all-time fan favourite. Mr. Candy earned two Emmy Awards for writing for SCTV.

The characters played by Mr. Candy on SCTV were generous losers and big-hearted chumps who were never pathetic, but loveable and genuine. It would be an act that translated into box office success in more than 40 feature films. His Hollywood successes include some comic classics like "Planes, Trains and Automobiles," "Uncle Buck," "1941," "Canadian Bacon" and "Cool Runnings." As part of an illustrious group of Canadian comics who found Hollywood glory, Mr. Candy had a singular charm. He could be as funny as anyone, but what really set him apart was his tenderness and a gentle, emotional honesty that made him instantly credible and loveable.

Off the silver screen, in 1991, Bruce McNall, Wayne Gretzky, and John Candy became co-owners of the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts. The celebrity ownership group attracted a lot of attention in Canada and the team even signed some highly touted National Football League players. Mr. Candy and the Toronto Argonauts took home the 1991 Grey Cup defeating Calgary 36 to 21 in the final.

Mr. Candy is an inductee on Canada's Walk of Fame. In May 2006, he became one of the first four entertainers ever honoured by Canada Post by being featured on a postage stamp. Blues Brothers 2000 is dedicated to three people, including Mr. Candy, who played a supporting role in the original Blues Brothers.

As a true Canadian, Torontonionian, and East York hero, the naming of this parkette is a fitting tribute to the memory of such a great man.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the General Manager from Parks, Forestry and Recreation be directed to take the necessary steps to officially name the parkette located at 769 Broadview Avenue, to the “John F. Candy Parkette.”