



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Proposed renaming of Russell Hill Parkette to "Robert Bateman Park"

<b>Date:</b>	May 6, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 22 - St Paul's
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P\2010\Cluster A\PFR\TE34-052510-AFS#11981

#### 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 Toronto and East York Community Council (TE33.82) at its April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting, regarding the renaming of Russell Hill Parkette situated at 281 Chaplin Crescent in honour of Robert Bateman.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that Russell Hill Parkette situated at 281 Chaplin Crescent be officially renamed "Robert Bateman Park" in honour of Mr. Bateman's history in the area, his many artistic accomplishments, achievements and environmental activism which includes the preservation and protection of the Kay Gardner Belt Line ravine.

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 Toronto and East York Community Council:**

1. Rename Russell Hill Parkette located at 281 Chaplin Crescent to "Robert Bateman Park" in honour of Mr. Bateman's many artistic accomplishments, achievements, and environmental activism.

## **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 April 27, 2010, considered a letter from Councillor Michael Walker, relating to the renaming of Russell Hill Parkette, situated at 281 Chaplin Crescent to “Robert Bateman Park,” and referred the matter to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report to Toronto and East Community Council. (Item TE33.82)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/te/decisions/2010-04-27-te33-dd.htm>

## **COMMENTS**

Robert Bateman was born on May 24, 1930 in North Toronto. At the age of six, Robert Bateman and his family moved into a house that his uncle built at 287 Chaplin Crescent. The home’s backyard sloped down to the Belt Line ravine, which provided the budding naturalist with an abundance of plants and animals to record. Mr. Bateman’s early and personal connection to the Belt Line ravine would influence him for the rest of his life.

In 1954, Robert Bateman graduated with a degree in geography from Victoria College at the University of Toronto and later attended the Ontario College of Education. He taught geography and art in high school for 20 years, two of which were spent teaching in Nigeria. In the 1970s, his artwork began to receive major recognition, culminating in the 1987 show at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC where he drew one of the largest crowds ever for a living artist.

Robert Bateman’s honours, awards and honorary doctorates are numerous. In 1984, he was made Officer of the Order of Canada, this country's highest civilian award. He was also given the Rachel Carson Environment Book Award in 1996, the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement in 1998, and the Order of British Columbia in 2001. In 1998, he was named one of the 20th Century's 100 Champions of Conservation by the U.S. National Audubon Society.

Mr. Bateman continues to advocate for the preservation and protection of the Belt Line ravine which is one of 24 ravines in the City of Toronto. Renaming this park in the community that Mr. Bateman lived in, is a tribute to his many artistic accomplishments, achievements, and environmental activism.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Brenda Patterson,  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation