



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Naming of Public Lanes in blocks bounded by Dupont Street, Bathurst Street, Bloor Street West and Christie Street – (Seaton Village, Phase 2)

Date:	March 17, 2014
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Engineering Services
Wards:	Ward 20
Reference Number:	P:\2014\Cluster B\TEC\ TE14014

SUMMARY

The Seaton Village Residents Association has requested the naming of 19 public lanes in the blocks bounded by Dupont Street, Bathurst Street, Bloor Street West and Christie Street. A staff report adopted by Toronto and East York Community Council on November 9, 2013 as Item TE28.1 successfully named 2 lanes. A staff report adopted by Toronto and East York Community Council on February 25, 2014 as Item TE30.6 successfully named an additional 10 lanes.

This report recommends that 6 of the 7 names be rejected because they do not comply with various sections of the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy. These names do not comply with that policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering and Construction Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Reject the following names:
 - a. "Patrick McGregor Lane"
 - b. "Old Crookshank's Lane"
 - c. "Deborah Brown Lane"
 - d. "Col. David Shank Lane"

- e. "Oscar Ryan Lane"
- f. "Karma Lane"

Financial Impact

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Seaton Village Residents Association has requested the naming of 19 public lanes in the blocks bounded by Dupont Street, Bathurst Street, Bloor Street West and Christie Street.

At its meeting on September 10, 2013, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE26.111 which contained the following recommendation concerning 16 of those lanes:

1. *Requested the Manager, Land and Property Surveys to investigate and report to Toronto East York Community Council on the suitability of naming the public lanes in the block bounded by Dupont Street, Bathurst Street, Bloor Street West and Christie Street as "Oscar Ryan Lane", "Belmira Fumo Lane", "Mission House Lane", "Hartstone Lane", "John McIntosh Lane", "Shady Lane", "Karma Lane", "Old Crookshank's Lane", "Sunnyview Lane", "Deborah Brown Lane, "Epworth Manse Lane", "Col. David Shank Lane", "Patrick McGregor Lane", "Ken Lai Lane", "Crestfallen Lane" and "Perly Lane".*

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-61404.pdf>

A staff report adopted by Toronto and East York Community Council on November 9, 2013 as Item TE28.1 successfully named 2 lanes. A staff report adopted by Toronto and East York Community Council on February 25, 2014 as Item TE30.6 successfully named an additional 10 lanes.

The report deals with 6 of the 7 remaining lanes. The lanes are shown as Parts 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11 on Attachment 1 – Sketch No. PS-2013-083, and the proposed names are according to the following schedule:

Part #	Proposed Name
1	Patrick McGregor Lane
4	Old Crookshank's Lane
5	Deborah Brown Lane
9	Col. David Shank Lane
10	Oscar Ryan Lane
11	Karma Lane

The following summaries have been compiled from background information provided by The Seaton Village Residents Association:

Patrick McGregor Lane

Patrick McGregor (1816 – 1882) was a Toronto lawyer who built his mansion at # 2 Vermont Ave in the 1870s, making it a uniquely large home for the Seaton Village area. He was a Scot who arrived in Canada in 1833 and was for a time, Headmaster of the Kingston Grammar School before being admitted to the Canadian Bar in 1857. He continued his scholarly pursuits and published books of translations, on logic and mathematics. He died in 1882 at 66 years of age, and was President of the Gaelic Society of Toronto. His wife Marion continued to live in their large brick house at 2 Vermont Ave.

Old Crookshank's Lane

George Crookshank (1773- 1859) was a civil servant in charge of the military Commissary, a politician and businessman. In 1797 he had received a Crown grant of 1,200 acres, of which part became the Crookshank estate of some 330 acres west of Bathurst Street. It connected his property and home by the lake to his later holdings north to the escarpment, now Davenport Road. In 1856 and 1857 he and his trustees were marketing lots in the subdivision he named Seaton Village in honour of his employer, Lord Seaton, Sir John Colborne, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada from 1828 to 1836. He was appointed to the Legislative Council in January 1821, which gave him a designation as “Honourable,” and he remained a member until the union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841.

Deborah Brown Lane

Deborah ("Mammy") Brown lived at 691 Markham Street with her husband Perry Brown. During the mid-19th century, Seaton Village was home to the largest number of African-Canadian and African-American families in York County. Deborah Brown died in 1898 and ten years later John Ross Robertson included her story in his articles about the history of Toronto. Deborah and Perry were formerly slaves in the State of Maryland. They left Maryland because Perry was going to be sold. They came to Canada about around 1856 and settled on the lot that Perry had purchased and obtained a deed for in 1870. Perry later died intestate, as Deborah Brown was old and feeble and unable to work or provide for herself, and was in poor circumstances she was granted possession of the property. It is believed that their home was among the first within Seaton Village.

Her Death Record and Obituaries titled “Toronto’s Oldest Resident”, show that she died at the age of 111 on April 24th 1898. She had lived in her home on Markham St up until one month before her death.

Col. David Shank Lane

Col. David Shank was granted a portion of the Park Lots west of Bathurst Street as were other Military men. Many of the original patentees to land in the Town of York were friends and relatives of our first Lieutenant Governor, John Graves Simcoe. Col. David Shank was one of those friends who served with Simcoe in the Queen’s Rangers during the American Revolution. Simcoe was appointed colonel from 1791-1796; Samuel Smith succeeded him until 1798, whereupon David Shank held the post until 1799.

Oscar Ryan Lane

Oscar Ryan (1904-1988) and his wife Toby Gordon Ryan lived in an apartment at 42 Barton Street from 1940 to 1988. He was a playwright, theatre critic, and activist. He was

the driving force in 1931 behind the founding of the Progressive Arts Club...He is best remembered for his contribution as one of four authors, of the only play banned by police on orders from a Prime Minister...*Eight Men Speak* protested the Bennett Government's use of Section 98 of the Criminal Code outlawing any communist activity and the arrest of eight communist leaders...In June 1936, William Lyon Mackenzie King repealed Section 98 and released the "Kingston 8".

Karma Lane

Karma Co-op has operated as a non-profit, member owned and operated food store in this lane since 1972, serving the Seaton Village residents and far beyond. Its street address is 739 Palmerston Ave. It has primarily been a bakery in its past lives, with the Magee families, living at Palmerston Ave, figuring prominently in the bread baking business. This is apparently one of the last remaining examples of Laneway Businesses that were common in the past.

COMMENTS

The proposed 6 names have been circulated for comment and are acceptable to Toronto Police Services, Toronto Emergency Medical Services, Toronto Fire Services and the Toronto and East York Preservation Panel. Councillor Vaughan supports this naming application.

Toronto Fire Services expressed concern over the use of the title "Col." in the name "Col. David Shank Lane", however the use of titles is not prohibited under the Policy.

The proposed names "Oscar Ryan Lane", "Old Crookshank's Lane", "Deborah Brown Lane", "Col. David Shank Lane" and "Patrick McGregor Lane" do not comply with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy because consent from each of the named party's representatives was not provided. Section 5.2.1, of the policy states:

5.2.1. The City shall not grant a naming without the informed written consent of the named party (i.e. individual, group or organization) or the named party's representative (e.g. estate or next-of-kin).

The proposed name "Karma Lane" does not comply with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy because "Karma" is the name of a local business, and could be perceived as conferring a competitive advantage to that business. Section 5.2.3 of the policy states:

5.2.3. The naming must not result in, or be perceived to confer, any competitive advantage, benefit or preferential treatment to the named party or, in the case of a street, to a development, product or service located, produced or provided on the street, or in the community.

The applicant was asked to provide consent for those names requiring same, and to provide an alternative to "Karma Lane". That request was not complied with.

This naming proposal does not comply with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy and it is recommended that these 6 names be rejected.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX36.3>

CONTACT

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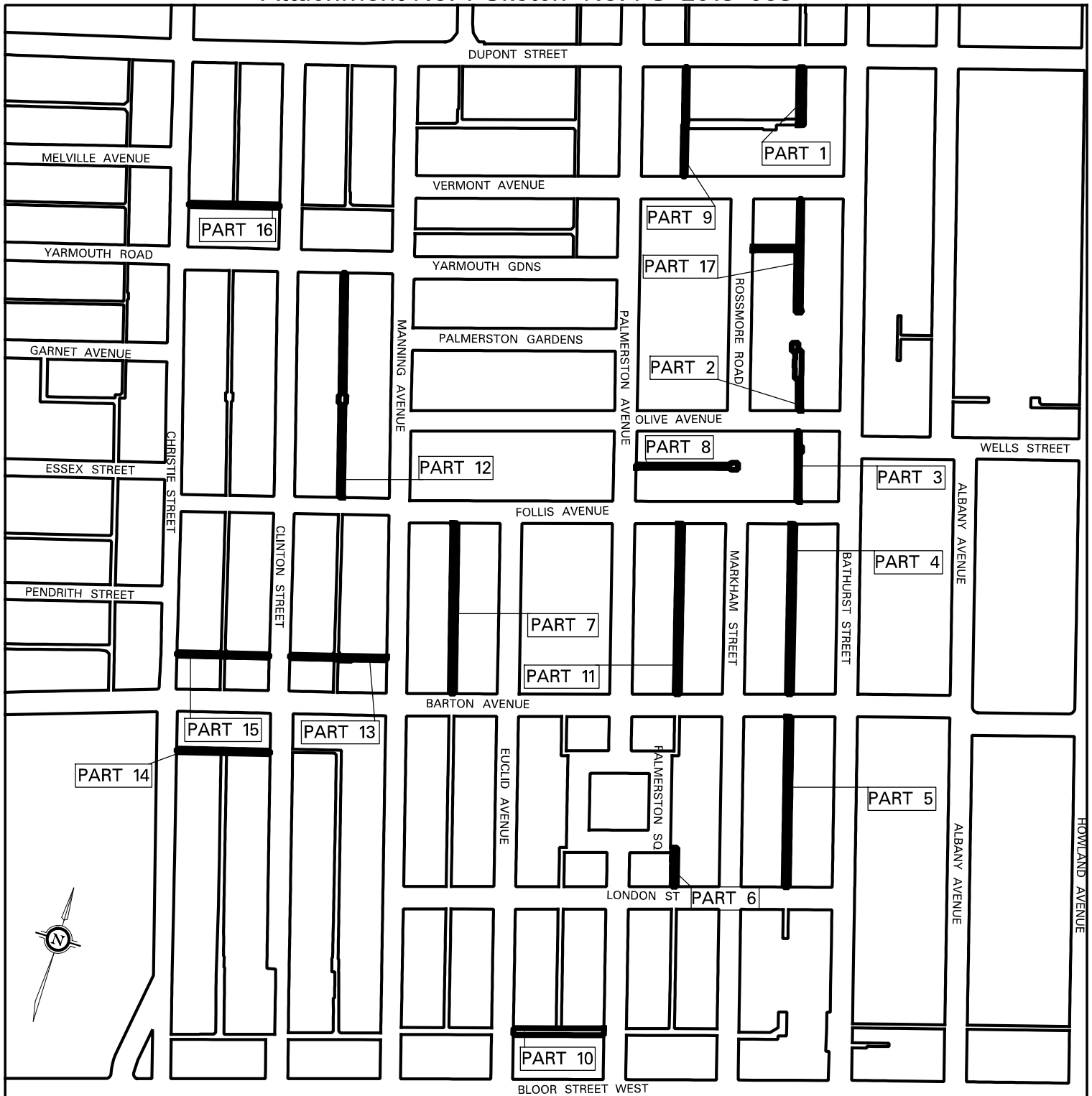
SIGNATURE

Shirley Wilson, P.Eng.
Director, Engineering Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1– Sketch No. PS-2013-083

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2013-083



Toronto

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION
SURVEY & UTILITY MAPPING

NOTE:

THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN
COMPILED FROM OFFICE
RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS
ARE APPROXIMATE

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE

PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

WARD 20 - TRINITY-SPADINA
DATE: SEPTEMBER 05, 2013

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

SKETCH SHOWING PUBLIC LANES BOUNDED BY
BLOOR STREET WEST, BATHURST STREET
DUPONT STREET AND CHRISTIE STREET
WITHIN SEATON VILLAGE

SKETCH No. PS-2013-083