



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Naming of Public Lane in the Block Bounded by Shaw Street, Pendrith Street, Christie Street and Essex Street

Date:	August 14, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Director, Engineering Support Services
Wards:	Ward 19
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster B\TEC\ TE15043

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Lillian Greene Lane" be approved to identify a public lane located in the block bounded by Shaw Street, Pendrith Street, Christie Street and Essex Street.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Approve the name "Lillian Greene Lane" for a public lane located in the block bounded by Shaw Street, Pendrith Street, Christie Street and Essex Street.

Financial Impact

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

An application was received from Virginia Thomson, a resident at 77 Essex St to name a public lane located in the block bounded by Shaw Street, Pendrith Street, Christie Street and Essex Street as "Lillian Greene Lane". Mrs. Thomson provided the following background information:

Lillian Greene Lane

Lillian Greene

"A lifelong peace, political and community activist, Lillian Greene was a pillar of the community until her death in 2007. Lil and her late husband Sam moved into 75 Essex St. In 1952 and raised three daughters here. As a concerned parent, she was active in the Home and School Associations while having a full career as a secretary for the Steelworkers Union.

Her roots in social justice activism date back to the Great Depression when as a young stenographer working with the unemployed and the Workers' Education League Lil was present, recording the historic encounter between the Relief Camp Workers Union, led by Arthur Evans and Canadian Prime Minister R.B. Bennett. For Bennett, the meeting was a ploy to de-rail the On to Ottawa Trek to highlight the demand for jobs and compensation for the jobless. For Evans and the trekkers held up in Regina, where the authorities had violently stopped the protest, the confrontation was a milestone that would eventually lead to an unemployment insurance system in Canada.

During the Viet Nam war, Lil, a member of the Voice of Women, was the officially recognized lifeblood behind the Knitting Project for Vietnam. The living room of 75 Essex St., was the central location for this project, where Lil received thousands of packages of garments in dark colours (camouflage from the war) knitted by city to rural women, church groups and even children's Brownie groups. Her daughter Karen recalls that Lil acknowledged by mail, a thank you card, for every single of the 34,000 items that were sent via Lil in solidarity with the people of Vietnam.

A lifelong swimmer, Lil supported & won free use by the community to use Christie Pits pool by petitioning door to door, along with her kids, and presented this to the city councillor. Lil kept up her community activism throughout her 90 years, being the first person on the block to organize an official petition against an illegal housing addition, to spearheading action to stop people from dumping garbage in the laneways. Many people in the neighbourhood knew Lil and have a great respect for the role she played throughout her life to make our community and our country a wonderful place to live."

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2015-065.

COMMENTS

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

The Toronto and East York Preservation Panel did not respond to a request for comment.

Councillor Layton supports this naming proposal.

Karen Greene, daughter of Lillian Greene consents to this naming proposal and community

Lillian Greene Lane

Community support in the form of a petition from residents, whose properties abut the lane, was provided by the applicant.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy.

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

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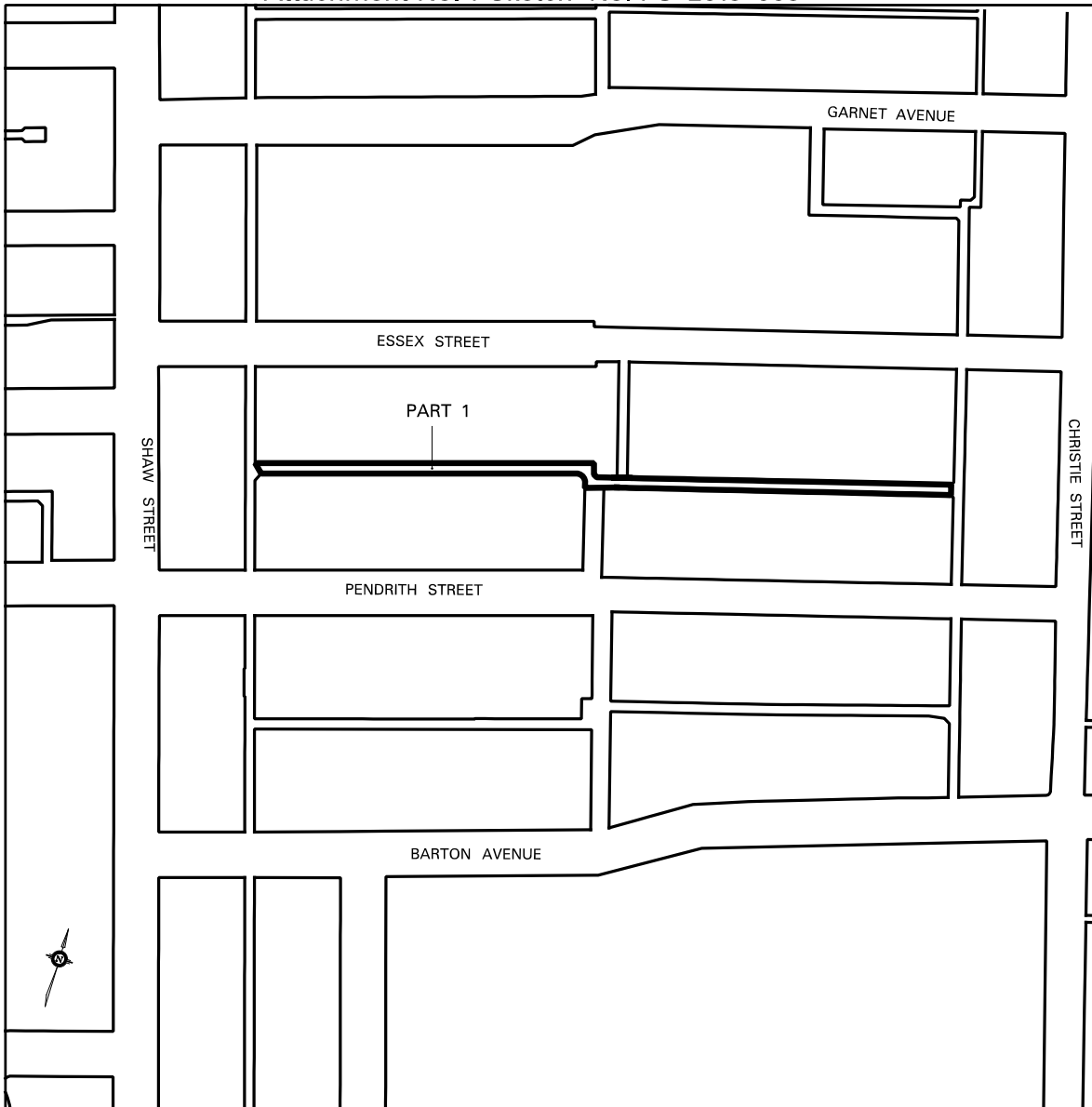
SIGNATURE

Bruce McPherson
Acting Director
Engineering & Construction Services

ATTACHMENT

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2015-065

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2015-065



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

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE
PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

WARD 19 - TRINITY-SPADINA
DATE: JUNE 04, 2015

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

NAMING OF PUBLIC LANE IN THE BLOCK BOUNDED
BY SHAW STREET, PENDRITH STREET,
CHRISTIE STREET AND ESSEX STREET

SKETCH No. PS-2015-065