

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM8.21	ACTION			Ward: 11
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Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from the Development at 1 Bedford Road to fund the creation and installation of a Heritage Plaque Commemorating the History of Taddle Creek - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy

** Notice of this Motion has been given.
 * This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the Approved 2019 Operating Budget for Heritage Toronto by \$21,461.74 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained in the development 1 Bedford Road and 230 - 244 Bloor Street West (with \$6,788.56 from Source Account: XR3026-3700001 and \$14,673.18 from Source Account XR3026-3700002), for the production and installation of a Heritage Plaque a heritage plaque commemorating the history of Taddle Creek.

Summary

This Motion seeks to release \$21,461.74 in Section 37 funds to Heritage Toronto for a heritage plaque commemorating the history of Taddle Creek.

One of Toronto’s “lost rivers” Taddle Creek sprang from the Davenport Ridge (the shoreline of ancient Lake Iroquois), flowed southeasterly from Wychwood Park through the campus of the University of Toronto, and emptied into Lake Ontario near present-day Front and Parliament Streets.

Taddle Creek played an essential role in the livelihood of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabe Indigenous peoples who lived on the land of what is now Toronto. The creek and its tributaries teemed with fish; its lush vegetation provided abundant food and plentiful wildlife. Today, buried Taddle Creek runs through the treaty lands and territory of the Mississauga and the Credit First Nation.

When Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe established the Town of York in 1793, the creek provided water for its first industries and drinking water for European settlers. In the 17th century, settlers established farms close to the creek and its tributaries. The easy availability of

water led to industrialization along the creek.

Taddle Creek formed the ravine that became Philosopher's Walk on the University of Toronto Campus. South of Hoskin Street, a dam created the picturesque McCaul's Pond in the 1860s (now the site of Hart House Green). During spring and summer students picked wildflowers, chased butterflies, and fished for trout. In wintertime, they skated on the pond and tobogganed down its banks.

As the City grew, industrial and residential waste was dumped in Taddle Creek, resulting in water contamination that endangered public health. This led to the burial of the creek and its diversion into sewer that emptied into Lake Ontario. By 1884, the McCaul's Pond was drained and the creek was entirely buried.

Today, the buried Taddle Creek continues to flow through the City, regularly flooding homes and the foundations of downtown buildings. Few traces of the river remain save for a portion of a shallow ravine on Philosopher's Walk south of Bloor Street. The only part of the creek above ground is the pond in the Wychwood Park Heritage Conversation District, north of Davenport Road.

This commemorative plaque will be installed at the southeast corner of Bloor Street and Queen's Park Crescent East (pending permit approval). Readers will be facing the buried path of Taddle Creek and a map of its course will aid with wayfinding and interpretation.

As Heritage Toronto is a directly funded City agency and not considered an outside party, no undertaking is required to be signed by Heritage Toronto governing the use of the funds and financial reporting.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.21