

Naming of an existing Public Lane east of Huron Street, extending south of Dundas Street West

Date: August 19, 2019

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

Wards: 10 Spadina-Fort York

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Jean Lumb Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane east of Huron Street, extending south of Dundas Street West.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Approve the name "Jean Lumb Lane" for an existing public lane east of Huron Street, extending south of Dundas Street West.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$250 and is included within the Transportation Services Division Operating Budget

DECISION HISTORY

This is the first time that this issue is before Community Council.

COMMENTS

A completed application was received on May 17, 2019, from a resident requesting to name the existing public lane east of Huron Street, extending south of Dundas Street West, "Jean Lumb Lane" honoring a local community leader, activist and first Chinese Canadian woman to receive the Order of Canada.

The following background and documentation was provided by the applicant:

"Jean Lumb Lane"

"...Jean Lumb, C.M. (1919-2002) was an extraordinary Torontonion and an outstanding Chinese Canadian woman. Not only did she live nearby at 377 Dundas Street West (at Beverley Street) and co-own a Chinese restaurant, Kwong Chow Chop Suey House, at 126 Elizabeth Street, in Toronto's first Chinatown, she worked tirelessly as a voice for the Chinese communities in Toronto and across Canada.

Jean fought for diversity and integration through food, dance, heritage conservation, and efforts to make immigration legislation more equitable. Her business acumen and outgoing personality were at the foundation of her dedication to civic and community work. In a long line of firsts and the recipient of many honours and awards, Jean became the first Chinese Canadian woman and first restaurateur appointed to the Order of Canada.

Jean gained a national profile through her work in challenging discriminatory immigration legislation. For twenty-four years, the Chinese Immigration Act, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Act, stopped the entry of Chinese into Canada. The result was the bachelor society of Chinatown, absent of women and children. After this legislation was repealed in 1947, there was renewed hope for the reunification of families. However, only Chinese, who were Canadian citizens, could sponsor family members, and only unmarried minor children and parents over the age of sixty-five were eligible. These restrictions prevented most Chinese from bringing wives, children, and parents to Canada. A cross-country committee was established to lobby for the lifting of these restrictions. Revisions to discriminatory immigration laws were sorely needed and Jean believed strongly in family reunification. Jean was the only female member of a delegation of forty Canadians and Chinese Canadians to meet with Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. From that day, she became the unofficial spokesperson of the Chinese community. Due to this delegation, the immigration regulations were revised so that Chinese who were legal residents of Canada could sponsor their relatives.

Jean and her husband opened the Kwong Chow Chop Suey House in 1959 at 126 Elizabeth Street, in the heart of Toronto's Chinatown. The restaurant, which operated for twenty-three years, was popular with both Chinese and non-Chinese Canadians. It became a favourite gathering place for prominent politicians, journalists, business and community leaders.

Jean also promoted Chinese culture through dance, as the founder of the Chinese Community Dancers of Ontario. The group performed lion and classical Chinese dances

at festivals, celebrations, and parades in Toronto and across Canada, including a command performance for Queen Elizabeth II at Canada's Centennial celebrations in 1967.

Jean's commitment to the preservation and promotion of Chinese culture was most evident in her leadership of the Save Chinatown Committee. Two-thirds of Chinatown was demolished for the construction of New City Hall and Nathan Phillips Square. After the official opening in 1965, the city proposed further expropriation of land. With Jean as the chair, the Save Chinatown Committee fought back to preserve what was left of Chinatown, a place where the Chinese community could celebrate their heritage and share their culture with Canadians. A plan for the preservation of Chinatown was adopted by the city.

By this time, Jean had earned a reputation as a highly respected Chinese Canadian, who believed strongly in building bridges to the broader Canadian community. She not only served as president of the Women's Association of the Chinese Dramatic Society, Jean broke barriers for Chinese Canadian women and held several prominent positions, notably on the Board of Governors for Women's College Hospital, and the Boards of Directors for University Settlement House and the Rotary-Laughien Centre. She served on the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism. In 1976, cited for her outstanding activism and dedicated work on behalf of the Chinese Canadian community, Jean earned the highest civilian honour bestowed by the Canadian government with her appointment to the Order of Canada. She was presented with the Queen's Silver Jubilee Award in 1977, the Fran Deck Award in 1982, the City of Toronto Award of Merit in 1984, and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award in 2002.

Jean left a legacy of social activism and cultural pride for the next generations. The annual Jean Lumb Awards, now in their 19th year, recognize five outstanding high school students of Chinese heritage, who have achieved excellence in academics, athletics, community services, the arts, and innovation. On April 23, 2016, the Ontario Heritage Trust honoured Jean Lumb with an historic plaque at the Downtown Diversity Garden in Toronto's first Chinatown".

Letter from Chinatown BIA

"On behalf of Chinatown BIA, I would like to endorse the on-going project of the Jean Lumb Laneway.

Chinatown recognizes Jean Lumb who dedicated her life to the community and played an important role in saving the Toronto Chinatown and advocating for changes to the immigration law that hindered family reunification. Many new immigrants have benefited from those changes.

As a result, Chinatown BIA supports the laneway between 433 Dundas Street West and 421 Dundas Street West being named after Jean Lumb".

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

Consent was provided by the family of the named party.

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from property owners/ residents who directly abut the lane. The Chinatown BIA also supports this naming proposal.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2016-148.

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

[Street Naming Policy](#)

CONTACT

Tony Rodrigues, Manager, Land and Property Surveys, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services, Telephone: 416 396-7140, Email: Tony.F.Rodrigues@toronto.ca

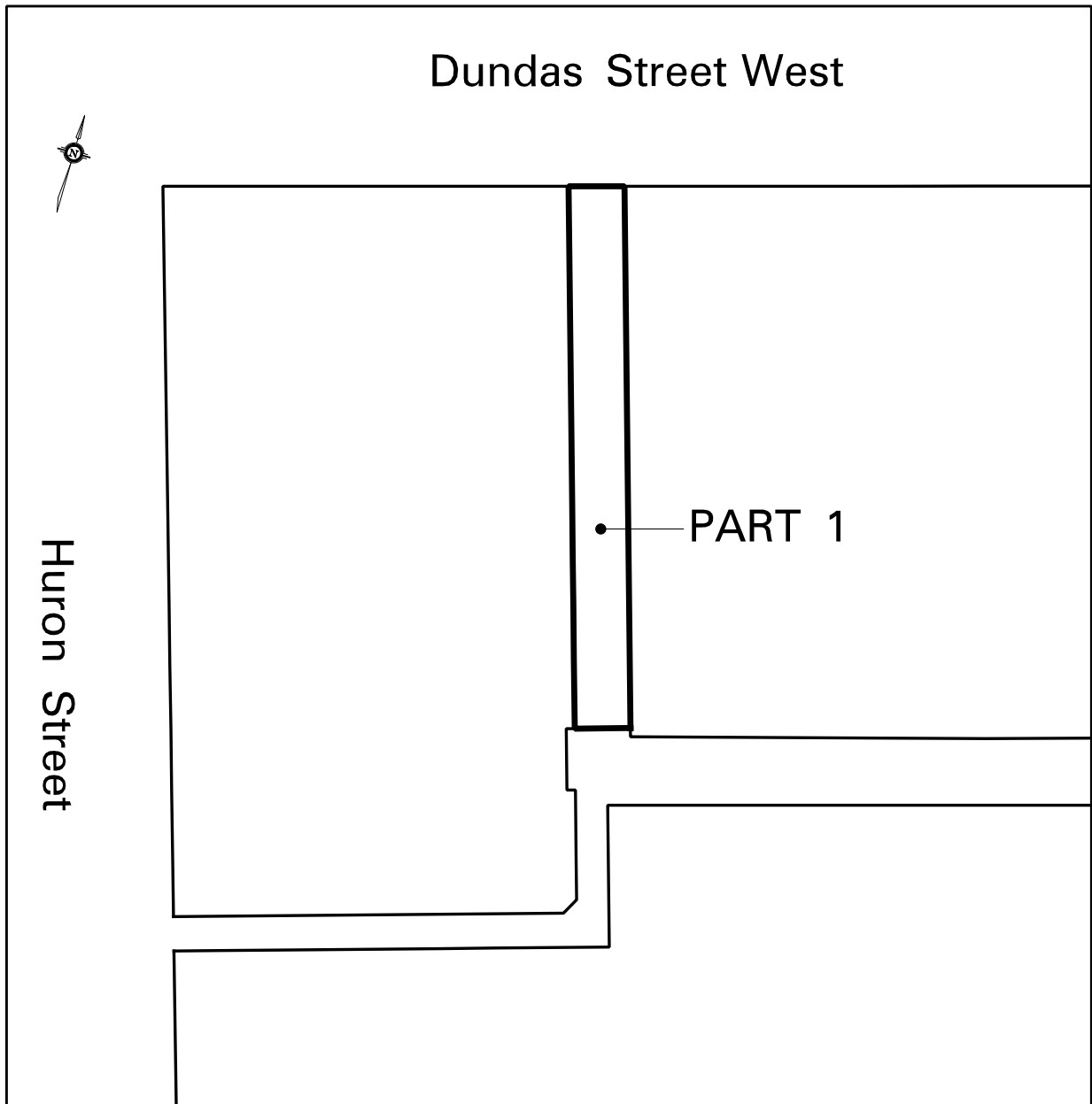
SIGNATURE

Mika Raisanen, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2016-148

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2016-148, showing the location of an existing public lane located east of Huron Street, extending southerly from Dundas Street West.



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

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE
PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET
NAMING OF AN EXISTING PUBLIC LANE EAST OF
HURON STREET, EXTENDING SOUTH OF
DUNDAS STREET WEST

WARD 10 – SPADINA–FORT YORK
DATE: MAY 14, 2019

SKETCH No. PS–2016–148