

## **The Naming of a Landmark in Honour of the Late Former Scarborough Mayor Gus Harris**

*(City Council on August 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2000, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)*

**The Scarborough Community Council recommends the adoption of the following report (July 6, 2000) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, subject to inserting the words “or the new park to be named” after the word “renamed” in Recommendation No. (2), so that Recommendation No. (2) shall now read as follows:**

**“(2) staff consult with the Harris family and recommend to Scarborough Community Council the specific park to be renamed, or the new park to be named, following the parkland naming policy.”**

**The Scarborough Community Council submits the following report (July 6, 2000) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism:**

### Purpose:

To respond to the request by the Scarborough Community Council to investigate the possibility of naming a City park or other appropriate landmark within the Scarborough community in honour of the late Gus Harris.

### Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

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

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) a city park in the Scarborough Community be named in honour of the late Gus Harris.
- (2) staff consult with the Harris family and recommend to Scarborough Community Council the specific park to be renamed, following the existing parkland naming policy.

### Background:

At its meeting of June 20, 2000, Scarborough Community Council requested staff to investigate the possibility of naming a City park or other appropriate landmark in the Scarborough Community to honour the late Gus Harris.

Comments:

Gus Harris served in public office in Scarborough for forty years. In 1949 he became a school trustee of area 1 and continued his public office career to become a member of Council of Ward 2 in 1951 and Ward 4 in 1954. He was appointed as the Deputy Reeve in 1955 and the Reeve in 1956. He was elected again as councillor of Ward 4 in 1961 and became the Public Utilities Commissioner in 1963-1966. In 1967 he was appointed member of the Board of Control and in December 1, 1978 was elected as Mayor of Scarborough.

Mr. Harris served office as a Mayor from 1978-1988. During his years of service he saw Scarborough through its most dynamic period of growth from a semi-rural village to Canada's seventh largest city. He fought for fiscally sound municipal government and a more substantial subway line. He left politics the way he served, without fanfare and self interest.

Staff have contacted the son of the late Gus Harris who is in agreement that a City park would be an appropriate landmark to honour his father. Staff will bring forward a recommendation on a specific park site, following further consultation with the family.

Conclusions:

In naming a park in honour of the late Mayor Gus Harris, the Scarborough Community will continue to recognize the valuable contributions made by the former Mayor.

Contact:

Gary Stoner, Director, Parks and Recreation – East District  
Tel: 396-4490; Fax : 396-4957; E-mail : [gstoner@city.toronto.on.ca](mailto:gstoner@city.toronto.on.ca)