The Naming of a Trail in Honour of Doris McCarthy (Ward 13 - Scarborough Bluffs)

(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 adding a Recommendation No. (3), as follows:

> **"(3) a commemorative sign, replicating the original sign on the Trail, be presented to Doris McCarthy by Mayor Lastman at the earliest possible City of Toronto Council meeting."**

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

Purpose:

To report to Scarborough Community Council as requested, on naming the walking trail that runs along the Bellamy Ravine in honour of Doris McCarthy.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

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

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

(1) the existing unnamed pedestrian roadway adjacent to the Bellamy Ravine be named "The Doris McCarthy Trail", pending successful community consultation; and

(2) the appropriate City Official be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

In 1997 a recommendation to name the roadway or trail adjacent to the Bellamy ravine "The Doris McCarthy Trail" was adopted by the former Scarborough Council at its meeting held on Tuesday, September 30, 1997 (Attachment No. 2). However, because the roadway land was owned by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority the recommendation had to be sent to the then Council of Metropolitan Toronto. This recommendation never received the official approval of the Council of Metropolitan Toronto due to the impending amalgamation of the new City.

Comments:

Doris McCarthy is a renowned painter and interpreter of the Canadian landscape. Doris McCarthy has lived at 1 Meadowcliffe Drive for over 40 years. Her property is adjacent to the Bellamy Ravine. She not only built her own home named “Fool’s Paradise” but was the first resident in the area. She has contributed significantly over the years to saving the ravine for public enjoyment.

She has also received several honours. In 1982 she was presented with the Scarborough Award of Merit. She was also appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1986 and of Ontario in 1992. In 1999, Doris McCarthy donated her land and two-bedroom home/studio named “Fool’s Paradise “ to the Ontario Heritage Foundation, along with a $500,000 endowment to maintain the property in perpetuity.

Staff have consulted with Works and Emergency Services. We were informed that the Department had circulated the name “The Doris McCarthy Trail” to Fire Services for approval. Fire Services had no objections to the use of the name to identify the Trail.

Initial discussions with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority has occurred and subject to the detailed consideration, no concerns have been expressed.

Staff have not had an opportunity as per the Parkland Naming Policy, to inform the local community prior to the preparation of this report. This will be done as soon as possible, following consideration by Scarborough Community Council.

Conclusion:

Doris McCarthy has contributed significantly to the Scarborough Community both as an artist and community member. The naming of the adjacent roadway to the Bellamy Ravine will recognize these contributions.

Contact:

Janet Ellis, Manager, Parks and Recreation, East District
Tel : 397-4686; Fax : 397-4691; E-mail : jellis@city.toronto.on.ca

A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing report were provided to all Members of the Scarborough Community Council and a copy thereof is on file in the Office of the City Clerk, Scarborough Civic Centre.