

Toronto STAFF REPORT

August 18, 2004

To: Scarborough Community Council

From: Joe Halstead, Commissioner Economic Development, Culture and Tourism

Subject: Naming of the Greenbelt situated west of Tallpines Court in honour of the late
Irma Burman
Ward 44- Scarborough East

Purpose:

To respond to the request to name the greenbelt adjacent to 115 Grand River Blvd and situated west of Tallpines Court in honour of local resident Irma Burman

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

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

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the land situated west of Tallpines Court and adjacent to 115 Grand River Boulevard be named in honour of the local resident Irma Burman; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to give the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

Irma Burman was born on April 30, 1917 on a farm in Thorold, Ontario. She was the youngest of the five Kuhnel children.

The family moved to Springfield, Massachusetts in 1927 and, in 1935, settled in Toronto. Irma started a career in the restaurant and catering business. She married Walter in 1947 and in 1949 their first son Jon was born. In 1955 Irma won the Irish Sweepstakes and used the proceeds, \$2,000, for a downpayment on the family's first home at 75 Fenwood Heights. Her son Bart was born in 1959, two years prior to the purchase of the family's current home on Centennial Road, more recently known as Tall Pines Court.

Irma's main interests were in planning and environmental issues. Throughout the 60's, 70's and 80's, Irma worked tirelessly for the preservation of the Rouge Valley, Meadowvale Pond and Centennial Swamp. During those years it was an expanding community with new homes and subdivisions. She was instrumental in the preservation of the greenbelt situated west of Tallpines Court. She was helpful throughout the years to her many friends and neighbours and stayed active and interested in political issues that affected them all. Irma Burman was an outstanding individual and her many lifetime accomplishments make her a role model for many.

Comments:

Consultation has taken place with the family and the public to determine the preferred venue to recognize Irma Burman's contribution to Ward 44 - Scarborough East. The greenbelt situated west of Tallpines Court was selected because it has special meaning to Mrs. Irma Burman and is an important part of the area she loved.

Staff will work with the Burman family to select signage for the greenbelt and commemorate the event in the appropriate manner.

Conclusions:

Irma Burman made a significant and long-standing impact in Ward 44 and the preservation of the environmental issues. Naming the greenbelt situated west of Tallpines Court in honour of her will recognize her many contributions to the City of Scarborough.

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