

MOTION
ETOBICOKE YORK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Request for Renaming of West Mall Park as Dennis Flynn Park

Moved By: Councillor Doug Holyday

SUMMARY:

In recognition of the significant contribution of Dennis Flynn to the former City of Etobicoke, it is appropriate that he be honoured through the dedication of a local park in his name. It is fitting that the park located in the closest proximity to the Etobicoke Civic Centre, West Mall Park, be renamed Dennis Flynn Park.

Dennis Flynn was the longest-serving Mayor in Etobicoke, from 1972 to 1984. In 1984 he succeeded Paul Godfrey as Chairman of Metropolitan Toronto. In 1988 he was elected as a Metro Councillor and held that position until 1997 upon the amalgamation of the City of Toronto.

His valiant efforts during the Second World War have been well noted. During his service in the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion, he was wounded twice, firstly in a jump into Normandy on D-Day and again a year later after rejoining the regiment. Following the war, he began his municipal career as an employee of the City of Toronto Clerk's Department.

In 1985, he created the Dennis Flynn Foundation whose goal it is to assist families who have been displaced due to family breakdown. The Foundation, managed by his family, supports Women's Habitat, Ernestine's Women's Shelter, Youth Without Shelter, Covenant House, and The Daily Bread Food Bank through such fund-raising efforts as the annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon held at the Canadiana Restaurant.

In 2001, the Order of Ontario was bestowed upon Dennis Flynn for his many exemplary years of public service.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Etobicoke York Community Council direct staff to report back on the feasibility of renaming West Mall Park as Dennis Flynn Park pursuant to the City of Toronto naming policy.

