

Councillor Adrian Heaps

Toronto City Council
Scarborough Southwest, Ward 35

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Chair and Members
Scarborough Community Council

RE: Park Renaming in Ward 35

In an effort to personalize the communities in which we live, and honour those who have made substantial contributions to our society, I respectfully ask the Scarborough Community Council to support this initiative.

Recommendation

1. That Community Council request the General Manager of Parks, Forestry & Recreation to report to the next meeting of Community Council with a recommendation to rename the park in Ward 35 currently known as Stamford Park to McPherson Park.

Background

Jim McPherson has been the patriarch of Scarborough Soccer for the last 40 years. Almost half a century ago, the pastor of Clairlea Presbyterian asked for someone in the parish to suggest an activity that would serve the youth of the community. Jim knew the game of soccer and when he approached the pastor with the suggestion of starting a soccer club, little did either gentleman guess that the result would be an organization that has served thousands of young people over its forty year history.

Under Jim, the club has nurtured thousands of young children in a unique philosophy that "leaves no child behind" If someone can not play, they are fully outfitted and in return they provide hours for assisting in refereeing, linesman and a host of other related activities.

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A number of years ago, Jim inspired a team that worked with him in bringing about an Irish exchange. His dream was to bring both Protestant and Catholic youth from Northern Ireland over to Scarborough ostensibly on a soccer exchange, but really on an educational endeavour. He wanted to demonstrate to the youngsters that people of various faith denominations and ethnic backgrounds could get together through the game of soccer and learn to appreciate their unique talents and customs and become friends in the process. The Exchange was a resounding success and saw the families of the Irish guests turn around and invite their Canadian hosts back to Ireland

Jim McPherson has been inducted into the Ontario Soccer Association's Circle of Excellence and Clairlea-Westview Soccer Club, is the only predominately house league club to ever win Club of the Year honours from the OSA. Jim is also recognized in the Scarborough Soccer Center's Wall of Fame for receiving an award from the Canadian Government. He has been honoured many times over the years for both his volunteer work in soccer, as well as his volunteer work in the Presbyterian Church.

The list of accomplishments and initiatives goes on. It is with these remarkable contributions that I recommend the park renaming.

Regards,

Adrian Heaps
City of Toronto Councillor
Scarborough Southwest, Ward 35