TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Renaming of Metro Square to David Pecaut Square

Date:	April 5, 2011
To:	City Council
From:	Mayor Rob Ford
Wards:	20 – Trinity-Spadina
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks City Council's authority to rename Metro Square to David Pecaut Square. This request is to commemorate a notable community leader, David Pecaut, who devoted his life to civic entrepreneurship and volunteering.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mayor recommends that:

1. City Council approve the renaming of Metro Square to David Pecaut Square.

2. City Council authorize the City Manager to implement suitable signage for the square, in cooperation with Oxford Properties and at no cost to the City.

3. City Council authorize the appropriate officials to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations in this report. The cost of signage will be covered by private sector fundraising.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of September 25, 26 and 27, 2006, City Council approved the site of Canada's Walk of Fame on Metro Square and in the public right of way along King Street West between Simcoe and John Streets.
http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060925/edp6rpt/cl002.pdf

At its meeting of July 16, 17, 18 and 19, 2007, City Council approved the designation of a portion of an area within Metro Square in honour of Glenn Gould.
http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/te/bgrd/backgroundfile-4817.pdf

COMMENTS

Mr. David Pecaut was a widely respected community leader who devoted his life to civic entrepreneurship and volunteering. His passion was the City of Toronto and everything about Toronto delighted and inspired him. As a trailblazing business consultant and strategist, Mr. Pecaut was convinced that Toronto could become a model for the world.

Mr. Pecaut's legacy in Toronto will not be soon forgotten. His creativity and hard work in spearheading projects such as the Toronto City Summit Alliance in 2002, and guidance with initiatives which included DiverseCity, the Toronto Region Research Alliance, Emerging Leaders Network, Greening Greater Toronto and Modernizing Income Security for Working Age Adults were just some of the many projects he was involved in.

In 2003, Mr. Pecault convened the Toronto Alliance but his most cherished and beloved project debuted in 2007. Toronto's Luminato, an international arts and culture festival, has been a staple in Toronto's summer identity since its inception. These were only a handful of Mr. Pecaut's gifts to Toronto.

Mr. Pecaut was recently honoured by the Governor General and the Government of Canada by being posthumously awarded the Order of Canada, for his distinguished service as a civic leader and volunteer and for his contributions to the arts community and the City of Toronto.

Metro Square was selected as the location for honouring Mr. Pecaut due to its high profile downtown location in the heart of the cultural entertainment district. The naming proposal attests to Mr. Pecaut's status as a leading social and cultural figure in Toronto.

The square (Attachment 1) is controlled by the City through a long-term lease agreement with Oxford Properties, the owners and managers of the adjoining properties, which collectively form the MetroCentre (Facilities Services manages and programs the Square's activities, and Parks Forestry & Recreation maintain the landscape features and flora of the park). Oxford Properties wrote to the Mayor on March 18, 2011 to indicate their support of the proposed renaming, and requesting cooperation in determining appropriate signage.

The proposal to rename the square adheres to Facilities Management's criteria for naming of property. The Toronto Legacy Project group and the Glenn Gould Foundation have been advised of the renaming proposal, and the renaming does not conflict with Canada's Walk of Fame, which is on the periphery of the square.

SIGNATURE

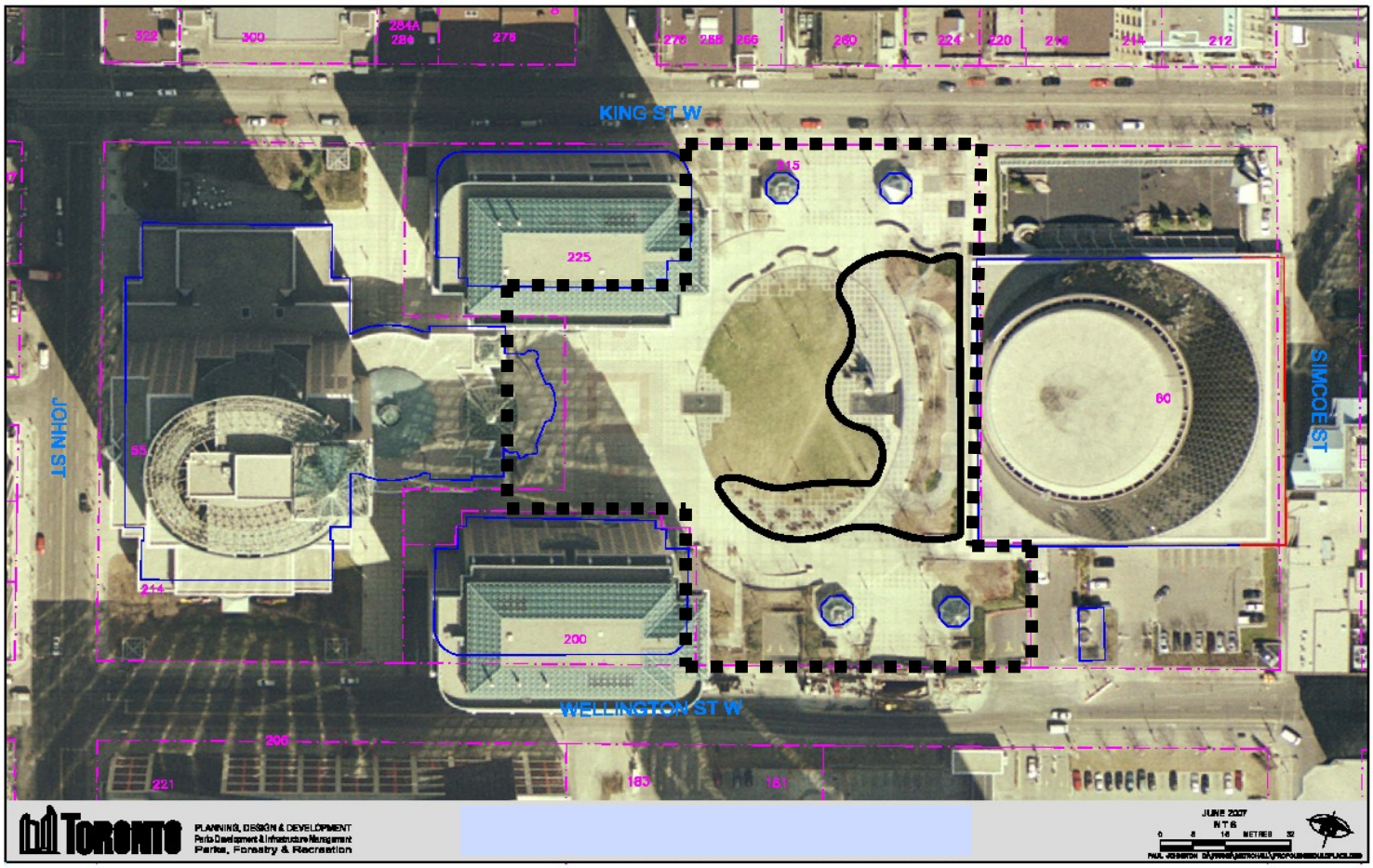
_____

Mayor Rob Ford
City of Toronto

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 – Map of Metro Square
Attachment No. 2 – Letter from Oxford Properties Group

Attachment No. 1



Note: Prepared by Real Estate Services for Renaming of Metro Square to David Pecaut Square for April 12th and 13th, 2011 Council Meeting – For Illustrative Purposes (Not Exact Boundaries)

Metro Square to be Renamed

Glenn Gould Place