

Proposed renaming of Cathedral Square Park to "Arena Gardens"

Date:	May 4, 2011
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 27 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale
Reference Number:	P:\2011\Cluster A\PFR\TE07-052511-AFS#13903

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

This report responds to the request made at Toronto and East York Community Council (Item TE36.123) at its August 17, 2010, meeting regarding the renaming of Cathedral Square Park located at 78 Mutual Street to "Arena Gardens".

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that Cathedral Square Park located at 78 Mutual Street be renamed to "Arena Gardens" in recognition of the importance Arena Gardens has played in the history of Toronto.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in ensuring that all criteria in the Naming and Renaming for Parks and Recreation Facilities Policy have been met.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Rename Cathedral Square Park located at 78 Mutual Street to "Arena Gardens" in recognition of the important role Arena Gardens has played in the history of Toronto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

Toronto and East York Community Council, at its meeting of August 17, 2010, (Item TE36.123) considered a letter from Councillor Kyle Rae relating to the request to rename Cathedral Square Park located at 78 Mutual Street to “Arena Gardens” and referred the matter to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report to Toronto and East York Community Council.

[HTTP://WWW.TORONTO.CA/LEGDOCS/MMIS/2010/TE/AGENDAS/2010-08-17-TE36-NB.HTM](http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/TE/AGENDAS/2010-08-17-TE36-NB.HTM)

COMMENTS

Arena Gardens was a historic building that once stood in the garden district of Toronto. This landmark was built in 1912 and at the time, was the largest indoor arena in the country. The Stanley Cup finals took place in the arena three times, with Toronto teams taking home the trophy each time: the Toronto Blueshirts in 1914, the Toronto Arenas in 1918 and the Toronto St. Pats in 1922. In 1938, the arena was renamed as the Mutual Street Arena and was later renamed as The Terrace in 1962. The building was later used as a curling club and roller skating rink before being demolished in 1989.

This unique arena was one of the first in Canada to offer an artificial ice rink and was the first place to host a radio broadcast of a hockey game in 1923. The arena was also used for many other sporting events, including professional wrestling matches. Aside from sports, it was used for other significant events such as the Liberal party reception for Sir Wilfred Laurier and the inaugural service of the United Church of Canada.

Some of this City's most memorable moments occurred in this building. A historical plaque was installed at the park to commemorate the significance of the Arena Gardens. Renaming the Cathedral Square Park to Arena Gardens would be an opportunity to recognize the importance the Arena Gardens has played in the history of Toronto.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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