



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Proposed naming of playground in Vermont Square Park in honour of Dennis Lee

Date:	August 3, 2011
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 20 – Trinity-Spadina
Reference Number:	P:\2011\Cluster A\PFR\TE09-091211-AFS#14284

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 at its May 25th, 2011 meeting (item TE7.57), regarding the naming of the playground in Vermont Square Park situated at 819 Palmerston Avenue, in honour of Dennis Lee.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that the playground in Vermont Square Park be officially named “Dennis Lee Playground” in honour of Dennis Lee's significant contributions to the City of Toronto and Canadian culture.

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 has been met.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. name the playground in Vermont Square Park, located at 819 Palmerston Avenue, "Dennis Lee Playground" in honour of Dennis Lee's significant contributions to the City of Toronto and Canadian culture.

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 May 25, 2011, considered a new business item to name the playground in Vermont Square Park situated at 819 Palmerston Avenue, after Canadian author Dennis Lee and that the matter be referred to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report to Toronto and East York Community Council.

Decision Document – item TE7.57:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewPublishedReport.do?function=getDecisionDocumentReport&meetingId=4446>

COMMENTS

Dennis Lee was born in Canada in 1939, and attended Kingsway Lampton Public School. He is a writer, poet and teacher, well known for his children's poetry collections Alligator Pie, Jelly Bean and Garbage Delight. His contributions to Canadian culture have been extensive. Dennis Lee has won numerous awards, including the Governor General's Award. He co-founded Toronto's House of Anansi Press in 1967, was made an Officer for the Order of Canada in 1993, and served as Toronto's first Poet Laureate from 2001-2004. He also created the Cultural Legacy Program to recognize Canadian figures.

In addition to his 1972 Governor General's Award, Lee has won numerous medals and awards for children's books and has published various adult poetry and prose. Dennis Lee lives around the corner from Vermont Square Park and has worked with the Seaton Village Residents' Association to further park improvements.

Upon adoption of this report, Parks, Forestry and Recreation will ensure that a plaque noting the name of the playground is installed.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Brenda Patterson,
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