

## North York Community Preservation Panel

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December 3, 2013

Executive Committee  
City Clerk's Office  
10W, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Deputy Mayor Kelly and Members of the Executive Committee,

### Re: **EX36.3 - City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy**

Street naming is an important way to recognize the heritage of an area, including early settlers. The North York Community Preservation Panel is concerned that the 2011 changes to the policy have resulted in the almost complete elimination of heritage names from consideration. The changes currently under consideration by the Committee do not address this concern. The Panel recommends that the Committee recommend to Council that the policy be revised such that heritage names be brought back into full consideration

One of the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy criteria for naming is that the proposed name commemorates local history. For many years, the City adopted the names of early settlers as names for new public streets, lanes or parks, based on Community Preservation Panel recommendations. However, the revised policy adopted by City Council on November 29 and 30, 2011 requires written consent of next-of-kin, which in the case of heritage names belonging to early settlers, is difficult or impossible. Consequently, there have been no early settler names adopted in North York since the naming of Johnson Farm Lane on May 25, 2011. We presume that the similar situation exists in other Toronto districts. We recommend that heritage names belonging to early settlers, such as those in the 1878 Historical Illustrated Atlas of the County of York, or in other early documents, should be exempt from the requirement to provide written consent from next-of-kin.

In North York, many existing streets recognize the early settlers of the area, but if brought forward for consideration today, they would not meet the existing City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy requiring consent from descendants. There are many more early settlers whose names should be commemorated in street names, and finding descendants is difficult or impossible to do.

The Panel further recommends that, together with the local councillor, the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy should state explicitly that "the

respective Community Preservation Panel" shall be consulted on all naming/renaming proposals, rather than assuming that it will be included in "community and other relevant stakeholders."

For many community residents, a street named after an early settler - the pioneer who shaped the rural community that grew to become today's city, provides their only exposure and clue to early local history.

Respectfully submitted,

*Geoff Kettel*

Chair, North York Community Preservation Panel

Appendix: Detailed proposed amendments (attached)

cc: Michael D'Andrea, Executive Director, Engineering & Construction Services  
Kerry Ferguson, Senior Ontario Land Surveyor, Engineering and Construction Services  
Phyllis Berck, Director, Toronto Office of Partnerships  
Bill Aird, President, North York Historical Society

## APPENDIX

### **Detailed Amendments to Honourific and Street Naming Policy Proposed by North York Community Preservation Panel**

The North York Community Preservation Panel recommends the following changes to the existing City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy, shown in bold:

#### 5. PRINCIPLES

##### 5.2. Eligibility and Criteria

5.2.1. The City shall not grant a naming without the informed written consent of the named party (i.e. individual, group or organization) or the named party's representative (e.g. estate or next-of-kin), **unless it is a naming after an early settler of the area.**

#### 6. PROCEDURE

##### 6.1. Naming of Properties and Streets

6.1.2.2. to commemorate local history **including early settlers**, places, events or culture;

6.1.3. Consideration should be given to names of local area or historic significance, **including the names of early settlers of the area.**

##### 6.2. Requests for the Honourific Naming/Renaming of City Properties (Other than Streets)

6.2.7. Upon receipt, community and other relevant stakeholders, including the local councillor, **and respective Community Preservation Panel**, shall be consulted on all naming/renaming proposals.