

Proposal to Name Baseball Diamond in Bond Park: Tom and Pat Lawson Memorial Field

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| Date: | April 17, 2014 |
| To: | North York Community Council |
| From: | Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation |
| Wards: | Ward 25 – Don Valley West |
| Reference Number: | P:\2014\Cluster A\PFR\NY32-051314-AFS#19232 |

SUMMARY

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

The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Division reviewed the naming proposal, and acknowledges the significant contributions Tom and Pat Lawson made to the City of Toronto. In researching this naming proposal, Parks, Forestry and Recreation reviewed the Council-approved *Honourific and Street Naming Policy* and found that this naming proposal met all of the criteria.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation is recommending that baseball field, number three, located in Bond Park at 120 Bond Avenue, be officially named to honour Tom and Pat Lawson.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Officially name baseball diamond number three in Bond Park, located at 120 Bond Avenue, the “Tom and Pat Lawson Memorial Field.”

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of January 15, 2014, North York Community Council directed the General Manager of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division to report back on naming Bond Park's baseball diamond number three (Item NY29.23: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.NY29.23>).

COMMENTS

For over 35 years, Tom and Pat Lawson dedicated their time and energy to the organization of amateur baseball. The Lawsons first joined the North York Baseball Association (NYBA) in 1969 by helping with their son's t-ball team. North York Baseball Association introduces children to the game of baseball from t-ball level up to the Midget level. Today, NYBA has 709 children participating in all levels of baseball.

In 1971, Tom began coaching, while Pat was keeping score and working behind the scenes. By 1974, Pat became the first women convenor, before eventually becoming Secretary and Treasurer of NYBA. Tom continued coaching until 1985 when he was elected President of NYBA. In 1986, Tom was asked to represent the Toronto Baseball Association, an association which supports competitive baseball for young people up to 18 years of age, on the provincial governing body of the Ontario Baseball Association. Tom was president of Toronto Baseball from 1987 – 1997. Pat remained involved and assumed the duties of Secretary-Registrar with Toronto Baseball in 1990.

In the winter of 1988/89 Tom was appointed General Manager of the Ontario Youth Team, which won back-to-back Canada Cup titles. Tom also helped found a five team league named Metro East League. In 2001, Baseball Canada presented Tom Lawson with the Baseball Canada and Major League Baseball Volunteer of the Year Award. Tom and Pat were also inducted into the Carmen Bush Signature Club.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in researching this naming proposal. As part of the research, Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff compared the proposal with the eligibility and criteria set out in the Council-approved *Honourific and Street Naming Policy*. This naming proposal meets all criteria identified in the *Honourific and Street Naming Policy*.

Public Consultation

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff produced and posted a sign (see attachment) in the park advising local residents of the request to name the baseball field in Bond Park – the Tom and Pat Lawson Memorial Field and advised that anyone interested should send comments to parksnaming@toronto.ca. To date, no objections were received.

CONTACT

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Staff Report for action to Name Baseball Diamond in Bond Park – Tom and Pat Lawson Memorial Field

SIGNATURE

Richard Ubbens
Acting General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

SIGNATURE

Attachment 1 - Park Sign used for Public Consultation