

## **Naming the Playground in June Rowlands Park as the Sharon, Lois and Bram Playground**

<b>Date:</b>	December 6, 2013
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jim Hart, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 22 - St. Paul's
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2014\Cluster A\PFR\TE29-011514-AFS#18562

### **SUMMARY**

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

Parks, Forestry and Recreation has reviewed the proposal, and acknowledges the significant contributions Sharon, Lois and Bram have made. As part of the research of the 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 except for requirement 5.2.2 under "Eligibility and Criteria," which states, "Honourific names shall normally be awarded posthumously to those individuals who have been deceased for at least two years, with exceptions to be approved by City Council." The members of Sharon, Lois and Bram: Sharon Hampson, Lois Ada Lilienstein and Bram Morrison all currently reside in the June Rowlands Park neighbourhood in Toronto. Therefore, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that this report be received for information.

However, at its meeting of December 5, 2013, Executive Committee adopted Item EX36.3 entitled "City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy," and in so doing has recommended to City Council, for its meeting of December 16, 2013, the following amendments to the policy:

- a) deletion of the current provision with respect to properties and street names which restricts posthumous street naming to those individuals who have been deceased for at least two years; and

- b) deletion of the current provision which restricts properties and street naming to living persons only in exceptional circumstances.

The deletion of the two above-noted restrictions "allows recently deceased individuals," as well as the "naming of living persons that have historical, cultural or social significance to be recognized."

If at the time of Toronto and East York Community Council's consideration of this item, City Council has adopted Item EX36.3, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that the playground located in June Rowlands Park at 220 Davisville Avenue be named in honour of Sharon, Lois and Bram to honour their contribution to Canadian culture and to entertaining and nurturing children as well as promoting the rights of children. This being the case, Community Council may amend the recommendation set out in this report to recommend adoption of the naming of the playground.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. Receive for information the report (December 6, 2013) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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

## **COMMENTS**

The Toronto-based Sharon, Lois and Bram, children's music and entertainment trio, composed of Sharon Hampson, Lois Ada Lilienstein and Bram Morrison was formed in 1978. They have been entertaining children and their entire families for over three decades. The trio has a diverse musical sound which include folk songs, school yard chants, pop tunes, camp songs, singing games, rounds, and nonsense rhymes that were performed in many different styles such as jazz, calypso, rock'n roll, country and folk.

During the 1980s, the trio starred in The Elephant Show on CBC which featured songs, sketches alongside a human-sized elephant puppet. The series was later aired in reruns on the U.S. cable network through 1994.

Sharon, Lois and Bram joined UNICEF in 1988 to promote the global importance of children's rights. They were awarded the UNICEF Danny Kaye Award for helping to raise more than three million dollars in Canada through their Trick or Treat for UNICEF campaign.

Staff Report Naming the Playground in June Rowlands Park  
as the Sharon, Lois and Bram Playground

Sharon, Lois and Bram have been recognized for their talent, dedication and efforts with many entertainment awards in both Canada and United States including: Junos (Canadian Musical Artists awards), Geminis (Canada's television industry awards), Parent Choice, SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada) nominations and awards; Gold albums, Platinum albums; Double Platinum albums; and, Triple Platinum albums.

In 2002 the trio received the Order of Canada, making the Chicago-born Lois one of the few non-Canadians to receive this honour. In 2009, the trio was awarded the Estelle Klein Award for their significant contributions to Ontario's folk music community.

Sharon Hampson, Lois Ada Lilienstein and Bram Morrison live in the neighbourhood of June Rowlands Park and welcome this naming request.

### **Public Consultation**

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff produced (see attachment) and posted a sign in the park advising of the request to name the playground in June Rowlands Park - Sharon, Lois and Bram Playground and requested that anyone interested should send comments to [parks@toronto.ca](mailto:parks@toronto.ca). To date, no objections were received.

### **CONTACT**

Richard Ubbens, Director, Parks, Tel: 416-392-7911, Fax: 416-397-4899,  
Email: [rubbens@toronto.ca](mailto:rubbens@toronto.ca)

### **SIGNATURE**

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Jim Hart  
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

### **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment 1 - Public Notice Sign



## Building community Preserving heritage

### Sharon, Lois & Bram Playground

#### Playground Naming in June Rowlands Park

A formal request has been submitted to the City of Toronto to name the playground located at June Rowlands Park, 220 Davisville Avenue, the "Sharon, Lois & Bram Playground."

The Toronto-based Sharon, Lois & Bram, children's music and entertainment trio, have been performing quality children's music and entertainment for over three decades. This request honours the celebrated performers who continue to be cherished and loved by multi-generations of children and adults around the world.

#### Letters of support or objection should be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to:

Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation – Park Naming  
Scarborough Civic Centre  
150 Borough Drive, 5th Floor  
Toronto ON M1P 4N7  
Fax: 416-396-4957  
Email: [parksnaming@toronto.ca](mailto:parksnaming@toronto.ca)  
Comments must be received by November 8, 2013.

