



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Naming of Public Lanes in blocks bounded by Vaughan Road, Spadina Avenue, Dupont Street and Winona Drive

Date:	September 14, 2015
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Acting Director, Engineering Support Services
Wards:	Ward 21
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster B\TEC\ TE15047

SUMMARY

This report recommends 10 names for public lanes located in the blocks bounded by Vaughan Road, Spadina Avenue, Dupont Street and Winona Drive.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering & Construction Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the following names for public lanes located in the blocks bounded by Vaughan Road, Spadina Avenue, Dupont Street and Winona Drive:
 - a. " Helen Porter Lane "
 - b. " Dr. Howard Lowrie Lane "
 - c. " Laretta Brooks Lane "
 - d. " Bilton Lane "
 - e. " Larry Priestman Lane "
 - f. " Robert Zend Lane "
 - g. " Bishop Arthur Brown Lane "
 - h. " Tollkeeper's Lane "
 - i. " Dom's Lane "
 - j. " Feel Good Lane "

Financial Impact

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Ward 21 Lane Naming Committee requested the naming of several public lanes in the blocks bounded by Vaughan Road, Spadina Avenue, Dupont Street and Winona Drive.

This report deals with 10 of these lanes, shown on Attachment 1 – Sketch No. PS-2015-083 according to the following schedule:

Part #	Proposed Name
1	Lauretta Brooks Lane
2	Bilton Lane
3	Helen Porter Lane
4	Bishop Arthur Brown Lane
5	Dr. Howard Lowrie Lane
6	Feel Good Lane
7	Robert Zend Lane
8	Dom's Lane
9	Larry Priestman Lane
10	Tollkeeper's Lane

The following summaries have been compiled from background information provided by The Ward 21 Lane Naming Committee:

"Dr. Howard Lowrie Lane"

"Dr. Lowrie, long-time resident of 4 Humewood Drive was a lifelong social activist and fought alongside Dr. Norman Bethune in Spain during the Spanish Civil War against the "Falange", General Franco's Fascists army. He devoted many years of free medical services to the poor and underprivileged citizens here in Toronto and helped out many of the dispossessed and desperate men on the breadlines during the Great Depression".

Audrey Lowrie, daughter of Dr. Howard Lowrie has provided consent.

"Lauretta Brooks Lane"

"Lauretta Brooks died in July 2014 after 10 years of living with Cancer. She was the heart and soul of the community. This is demonstrated by the numerous activities she participated in as an initiator of or a volunteer for organizations or projects that enhanced the lives of the people in the community. While her own children were small she provided a childcare for numerous children in the area. After that Lauretta, worked as a school & community liaison worker for the City of York Board of Education. Finally, she worked as a person support worker providing respite care for families in need of

assistance. Her crowning asset was her connection with people. She had her finger on the pulse of the neighbourhood. If someone or a family was in need, she knew and the wheels began rolling".

Leslie Brooks, husband of Lauretta Brooks has provided consent

"Tollkeeper's Lane"

"In honour of the historic site and building, being the Tollkeeper's Cottage located at the corner of Davenport and Bathurst St. This is the last of the toll booths which were at major intersections which financed the road work for Davenport Road".

"Feel Good Lane"

"Feel Good was the performance name of a former Ward 21 resident, Barry Luksenberg. Barry grew up in the St. Clair West neighbourhood, and was very passionate about hip hop. He and his friends formed a group named "512", after the local streetcar line. Each of these members were very dedicated to their neighbourhood, and contributed to the musical culture of the area. Even when Barry lived in Victoria, BC, he continued to promote his "512" roots to the people he knew there. This young man tragically passed away in 2014, at age 24.

Barry was well-loved and touched many people's lives. An online petition on change.org had 458 supporters while another petition gathered 427 signatures, all in favour of this proposed laneway name. His memorial at the Wychwood Barns was attended by over 300 people. The widespread support for this tribute to Barry is a testament to his roots in the local community and shows how tragic and untimely this young man's departure was. The naming of Feel Good Lane would be significant to the community, as it honours the life of an individual passionate about the St. Clair West neighbourhood who touched many hearts and contributed to the community's musical culture".

"Dom's Lane"

"This proposed name gives homage to a local shopkeeper, Domenico Cozzi. He and his wife, now in their elderly years, have been firmly rooted in the community. Their shop is colloquially known as "Dom's" and is considered a landmark in the neighbourhood. Generations of locals have been into the shop for almost 50 years. During lunch hour, local schoolchildren line up to buy homemade sandwiches at Dom's – some of these children have parents who did the very same thing many years before.

To the many locals who shop at Dom's, this store is more than a business to them, but an integral and unique piece of their neighbourhood's fabric. Dom's is even featured in a children's book, "Our Corner Grocery Store." The nomination of Dom's Lane has been put forward by 22 neighbours of Dom; these people feel this would be an appropriate honour to one who has enriched the neighbourhood for so many years".

Domenico Cozzi has provided consent.

"Bilton Lane"

"George Bilton was the long-time owner of a former grocery store in the Forest Hill Village. This grocery store was located at the northwest corner of Spadina and Lonsdale and operated for 60 years, until 1986. The store opened in 1926 as Black's Forest Hill Market, owned by Frederick William Black. Ownership of the business by the Bilton family began in 1943 when it was purchased by George's father, Frederick Bilton. When the store ownership turned over to George, it was renamed Bilton's Fine Foods. George Bilton operated the business for 32 years – the longest of all the owner-operators. The residence above the grocery store was also his family home. George and his business are remembered by long-time residents of the Forest Hill Village. As such, the naming of Bilton Lane would be a token of local history to this community. The name was proposed by a resident of the neighbourhood, and supported by members of the Ward 21 Laneway Naming Committee."

Eda Greco, granddaughter of Llyod Bilton and great niece to George Bilton has provided consent.

"Larry Priestman Lane"

"Larry Priestman was a lifelong electrician. He was very active in his local branch of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, even after his retirement. Larry taught classes at George Brown College, and was also part of a special team of professionals appointed by UofT to advise members of the corporate world on how to relate with their unions. He volunteered at and donated to the old Hillcrest Hospital until its volunteer team was disbanded. Larry also volunteered his expertise in the restoration of the Tollkeeper's Cottage, frequently paying for various tasks out of his own pocket. This proposed name would give homage to a man who had contributed significantly to the city and the local community. Larry's presence in the local community was so noteworthy that he was nicknamed "the Mayor of Marchmount" by his neighbours.

Peter Priestman, son of Larry Priestman has provided consent.

"Robert Zend Lane"

Born in Budapest, Robert Zend and his wife and baby escaped the failed 1956 Hungarian Revolution to start a new life as refugees in Canada. He soon became a Canadian citizen and worked his way up as an employee for the CBC, becoming a producer of over 100 radio documentaries for Ideas. Zend also obtained a Master's in Italian Literature at the University of Toronto and was a long-time resident (20 years) of Ward 21. His family home is still in the Hillcrest neighbourhood of Ward 21. Zend's invaluable contributions to Canadian culture go beyond his documentaries with the CBC. Upon arrival in Toronto, he immediately became active in literary and artistic life, publishing five collections of poetry, fiction, and a unique type of typewriter art he referred to as "typescapes." Five more books were published posthumously by his widow, Janine. Zend's works are praised by many, including Margaret Atwood, Northrup Frye, Glenn Gould, Marcel Marceau, Jorge Luis Borges, and John Robert Colombo. Robert's work frequently had Toronto as a

motif. His literature also featured themes of transition from one culture to another and newfound freedom in a democratic and multicultural country. As such, his story is one that is very representative and relatable to many citizens of this great city. Therefore, Robert Zend Lane would be a great tribute to a man who found his success and his home in Toronto, while greatly contributing to Canadian literature and arts in his life.

Janine Zend, widow of Robert Zend has provided consent.

"Bishop Arthur Brown Lane"

Bishop Brown was the rector of the St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church at St. Clair and Wychwood before becoming a Bishop in the Diocese of Toronto. In the church, Bishop Brown was very inclusive and progressive. He welcomed newcomers from around the world, had these newcomers take on roles of responsibility, and appointed the church's first black Warden and one of the first female Wardens in the Diocese. Bishop Brown invited many dignitaries to speak at the church including former Premier Davis, Hon. Roy McMurtry, Hon. Ron Atkey, and Bishop Tutu. Bishop Brown also established a Day Care Centre in the church in 1975, and continued to support its improvement until he passed away in 2011. The naming of Bishop Arthur Brown Lane would therefore honour a man who went out of his way to include people of diverse ethnic backgrounds and women in his faith, contributing to Toronto's vision of an inclusive and progressive city. His local community contribution – the daycare – also continues to live on.

Judy Simon (nee Brown), daughter of Bishop Arthur Brown has provided consent.

"Helen Porter Lane"

*A talented storyteller, Helen Carmichael Porter was very effective at developing complex characters and storylines by seeing the world through various points of view. Always looking for stories in the things she saw, Helen based her works on what she researched and what she created; stories based on historical characters; stories on people she met locally or in her travels; stories on her own experience, transmuted and imagined. Helen drew on the landscapes of where she spent her time, including her home in Toronto. Although she spent much time in other regions such as the Ottawa Valley and the Northern Ontario Lakelands, Helen's roots were still strong in this city, obtaining a Master's Degree at the University of Toronto, and teaching English and Drama at the Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute. Some of Helen's contributions to the community include her published stories - *My Father Taught Me to Swim*, *My Grandmother's Mouth*, *I Love You So Much It Hurts*, and *The Bully and Me: Stories that Break the Cycle of Torment*. The latter saw great success on her tours in countless schools – a testament to Helen's ability to connect with other people's issues and struggles. Some other venues she told her stories in were the National Arts Centre, the Blyth Festival, St. Lawrence Centre, Roy Thomson Hall, the Hans Christian Anderson statue in Central Park (New York), and on CBC radio, television, and film.*

Helen passed away in 2007, after a three month battle with leukemia. She is missed dearly by the storytelling community in Canada, as her contribution was very well known and

extensive. Having lived on Pinewood Ave in Ward 21, the naming of Helen Porter Lane would honour this woman's great works, and her impact on countless people her stories have touched.

Sheila J. Smith, sister of Helen Porter has provided consent

The proposed 10 names have been circulated for comment and are acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Paramedic Services, Toronto Fire Services and Toronto East York Preservation Panel.

Community support in the form of a petition from residents whose properties abut the lanes, was provided by the applicants.

Councillor Mihevc supports this naming application.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.EX36.3>

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENT

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2015-083

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Toronto
MUNICIPALITY OF TORONTO
 ENGINEERING & CONSULTING SERVICES
 ENGINEERING, SURVEYING, PLANNING
 AND E. PROPERTY SERVICES

NOTE:
 THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN
 COMPILED FROM OFFICE
 RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS
 ARE APPROXIMATE

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE
 PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

WARD 21 - ST. PAUL'S
 DATE: JULY 16, 2016

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

NAMING OF PUBLIC LANES IN BLOCKS BOUNDED BY
 VAUGHAN ROAD, SPADINA AVENUE, DUPONT STREET
 AND WINONA DRIVE

SKETCH No. PS-2015-083