

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM28.7	ACTION			Ward:20
--------	--------	--	--	---------

Request to Amend the 2017 Parks Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget for the Widmer at Adelaide (Grasett Park) project - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council amend the approved 2017 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget for the Widmer at Adelaide (Grasett Park) sub-project in the Park Development project, by increasing the project cost by \$400,000 from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 and the 2017 cash flow from \$588,140 to \$988,140 with funding from the Section 42 Alternate Rate Cash-in-lieu for 290 Adelaide Street West (Source Account XR2213-4200302).

Summary

This Motion seeks authority to increase funding for the Widmer at Adelaide (Grasett Park) sub-project in the 2017 Parks, Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget, by \$400,000.

In the 1840s, the failure of the potato crop forced one million Irish to emigrate and it is estimated that another 800,000 died from starvation. In 1847 alone, 38,560 refugees arrived in Toronto, a number far greater than the population of the City at the time. Many Irish refugees were sick and dying from "ships fever" or typhus as we know it today.

Despite the prevailing anti-Catholic bigotry in Toronto at the time, physician George Robert Grasett, a Protestant, worked tirelessly as the Chief Medical Officer at the Emigrant Hospital, located at John Street and King Street West, along with a staff of orderlies and nurses, to care for the overwhelming numbers of people with typhus. Dr. Grasett died from the infection himself on July 16, 1847. Like the Irish victims of the disease, many of the orderlies, nurses, and doctors who succumbed to typhus are unknown to history. Dr. Grasett's personal sacrifice is a symbol representing much more than his individual deeds.

Funding is from the Section 42 Alternate Rate Cash-in-lieu for 290 Adelaide Street West and is required to make up the shortfall in the budget, also funded by the Ireland Park Foundation, to complete the construction of this new neighbourhood park.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM28.7