

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM36.12	ACTION			Ward:42
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Request for Report on the Feasibility of Re-naming of "Hupfield Park" to "Viola Desmond Park" - by Councillor Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Scarborough Community Council. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Neethan Shan, seconded by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to investigate the feasibility of renaming "Hupfield Park" to "Viola Desmond Park" and to report back to Scarborough Community Council with a recommendation based on the criteria and process outlined in the Property Naming Policy.

Summary

Viola Desmond was a successful black businesswoman from Nova Scotia who fought for equality and inspired the civil rights movement in Canada.

While on a car trip across the Province in 1946, she was confronted with the injustice of segregation.

Viola Desmond developed car trouble in New Glasgow and decided to go to the movies at the local theatre while she was waiting for repairs. She bought a ticket and took a seat on the main floor, unaware the main floor was reserved for white patrons only.

Theatre staff demanded that she move to the balcony, but Viola Desmond refused.

Police were called. Viola Desmond was dragged out of theatre, which injured her hip. She was charged and spent the night in jail.

After the incident, Viola Desmond decided to fight the charges in court. She lost her case and tried unsuccessfully to have the conviction overturned in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, the first known challenge brought by a Black woman in Canada against racial segregation. She was pardoned 63 years later, based on the injustice of her conviction.

In taking the issue to court, Viola Desmond inspired black Nova Scotians to join together to fight against racial discrimination in the province. In 1954, segregation was legally outlawed in Nova Scotia, thanks to leaders like Viola Desmond who stood up against injustice.

Viola Desmond has since been featured in a Historical Canada Heritage Minute, and in December 2016, it was announced that Viola Desmond would be the first Canadian woman depicted on the face of a Canadian banknote — the \$10 note in a series of bills to be released in late 2018.

Honouring Viola Desmond in Scarborough provides people of all backgrounds with an opportunity to learn and celebrate an important historic role model.

The park is next to Mary Shadd Public School, which was named after a civil rights advocate, providing the perfect partner to remember their accomplishments in promoting equality, justice and freedom.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM36.12