

## **Renaming of Karen's Way extending between Barberry Place and Rean Drive**

**Date:** April 3, 2019

**To:** North York Community Council

**From:** Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

**Wards:** 17 Don Valley North

### **SUMMARY**

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At its meeting of July 4, 2018, the North York Community Council adopted Item NY32.92 approving the name "Karen's Way" for the unassumed street extending between Barberry Place and Rean Drive.

At a subsequent meeting on July 23, 2018, the North York Community Council adopted Item NY33.2 enacting Bylaw #1036-2018 to authorize the naming of the unassumed street between Barberry Place and Rean Drive as "Karen's Way".

On March 4, 2019 the North York Preservation Panel, with support from Councillor Carroll, requested a renaming of "Karen's Way" to "Thomas Clark Way" in recognition of an important early settler from the area. The proposed name "Thomas Clark Way" complies with the Policy, however, renaming of streets is addressed in section 3.4 of the Street Naming Policy which states:

*"3.4 Streets that have been named, renamed, or assigned a ceremonial name within the previous ten years will not be renamed."*

Because the original naming of this street occurred in 2018, a renaming at this time is not in compliance with the Street Naming Policy. Therefore, this report recommends that the renaming be rejected.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the Street Naming Policy. As this renaming is not in compliance with the Street Naming Policy, North York Community Council does not have delegated authority to approve a renaming. Any renaming of this street at this time would require the consideration and approval of City Council.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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Engineering and Construction Services recommends that North York Community Council:

1. Reject the renaming of "Karen's Way" extending between Barberrry Place and Rean Drive.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

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There is no financial impact to adopting the recommendation contained in this report.

## DECISION HISTORY

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At its meeting of July 4, 2018, the North York Community Council adopted Item NY32.92 which stated:

*"North York Community Council:*

*1. Approved the naming of the unassumed street between Barberrry Place and Rean Drive as "Karen's Way".*

*2. Directed that the recommended name be referred to Engineering and Construction Services to confirm that Police, Fire Services, and EMS have no objections to the proposed name.*

*3. Directed that public notice be given and the necessary By-law be prepared for this name to be considered at the first meeting of the North York Community Council in the new term of Council."*

### [NY32.92](#)

At its meeting of July 23, 2018, the North York Community Council adopted Item NY33.2 which stated:

*"North York Community Council:*

*1. Enacted the by-law to authorize the naming of the unassumed street between Barberrry Place and Rean Drive as "Karen's Way".*

### [NY33.2](#)

## COMMENTS

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The name "Karen's Way" was approved by North York Community Council's adoption of Item NY32.92 on July 4, 2018. The name was not the subject of a Staff Report prior to being approved by North York Community Council.

On March 4, 2019 the North York Preservation Panel, with support from Councillor Carroll, requested that "Karen's Way" be renamed "Thomas Clark Way".

The following information was prepared and submitted by Mary Ann Cross, North York Community Preservation Panel:

### ***Thomas Clark:***

*In 1841, Thomas Clark purchased 200 acres of land, Lot 15, Concession 2 East, on the south side of Sheppard Avenue from Bayview Avenue to Leslie Street, where the street to be renamed is located. His first wife, Elinor Linton, died in 1844, after having seven children. Later he married Nancy Miller, whose family farmed Lot 16, Concession 2 East, on the north side of Sheppard Avenue. After first building a log cabin, in 1855, he built Barberry House for his growing family, which would eventually include thirteen children. He named the house Barberry Place after the many barberry bushes that once grew there. The house is still standing at present-day 9 Barberry Place, and was designated under Part IV the Ontario Heritage Act by the former City of North York on June 22, 1994.*

*The house is of unusual construction. The fieldstone foundation is eighteen inches thick. The exterior walls are three bricks thick. All the lumber used to build the house is white pine, which was cut on the property. The wall laths are hand-split pine. All the interior trim is handmade, unique to the house.*

*Thomas Clark's land was the site of early schoolhouses in the area. In 1848, a brick schoolhouse, S.S. #11, was built facing Sheppard Avenue on land that had been Thomas Clark's, to replace the log schoolhouse that was reported as early as 1826 by a School Superintendent. In 1874, Thomas Clark sold one-half acre of his land for the construction of a new red brick schoolhouse to replace the 1848 schoolhouse. Located next to the church, the red brick school in School Section #11 stood until 1910, when it was replaced by the Oriole Public School, which was itself demolished in 1966.*

*Thomas Clark was a community leader who held meetings in his log cabin for the Wesleyan Methodists of Oriole, the hamlet at the corner of Leslie Street and Sheppard Avenue. It was from this founding class that the Oriole-York Mills United Church developed. By 1852, Clark's class was mentioned in Methodist records, and by 1853, it was one of twelve preaching points of the Methodist Yonge Street circuit. The group later moved into the brick schoolhouse on Clark's original property, and finally into a church also built on Clark's property in 1873. In 1875, Thomas Clark transferred the 4/10th acre of land where the church was built to the "Trustees of Clark's Congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada in connection with the English Conference". They were known as Clark's Congregation of the Wesleyan Methodist*

*Church until around 1878, then as East York. In 1913, the congregation became the Oriole Methodist Church, until it was renamed the Oriole United Church in 1925. In 1959, it became the Oriole-York Mills United Church. In 1962, a new church was dedicated at 2609 Bayview Avenue. The original brick church building was dismantled in 1965. On September 28, 2014, the new church was renamed the Bayview United Church when the Oriole-York Mills United Church and the Centennial-Japanese United Church officially amalgamated.*

*The most important reason to rename the street between Rean Drive and Barberry Place to commemorate important early settler, Thomas Clark, is that Barberry Place, the house he built in 1855, at present-day 9 Barberry Place, is the only structure from the community's pioneer past which still survives in the area. It was designated under Part IV the Ontario Heritage Act by the former City of North York on June 22, 1994. Both a church and a schoolhouse were built in the 1800s on Thomas Clark's land, but they have long been demolished.*

*It would be very fitting for the unassumed street between Barberry Place and Rean Drive to be renamed to commemorate pioneer, Thomas Clark, who contributed so much to the community at the time, and into the future."*

Five descendants of Thomas Clark were found who gave written consent for the naming of the street as "Thomas Clark" to commemorate their ancestor. The descendants included his great-great-grandniece, Jane Arnio, his great-great-grandnephew, Thomas Douglas Clark, his great-great-granddaughter, Angela Fox, his great-great-grandniece, Sandra Dagner Hufnagle, his great-great-grandnephew, Roger Kerr and great-nephew, Alan Clark.

The name "Thomas Clark Way" was circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services and Councillor Carroll.

Community support letters from the owners/residents whose properties abut "Karen's Way", was provided by the applicant.

The proposed name "Thomas Clark Way" complies with the Street Naming Policy, however, a renaming at this time would not be in compliance with the Street Naming Policy because of section 3.4 which states:

*"3.4 Streets that have been named, renamed, or assigned a ceremonial name within the previous ten years will not be renamed."*

Due to non-compliance with section 3.4 of the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy, it is recommended that the renaming be rejected.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the Street Naming Policy. As this renaming is not in compliance with the Street Naming Policy, North York Community Council does not have delegated authority to approve a renaming. Any renaming of this street at this time would require the consideration and approval of City Council.

[Street Naming Policy](#)

The street is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2019-029.

**CONTACT**

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**SIGNATURE**

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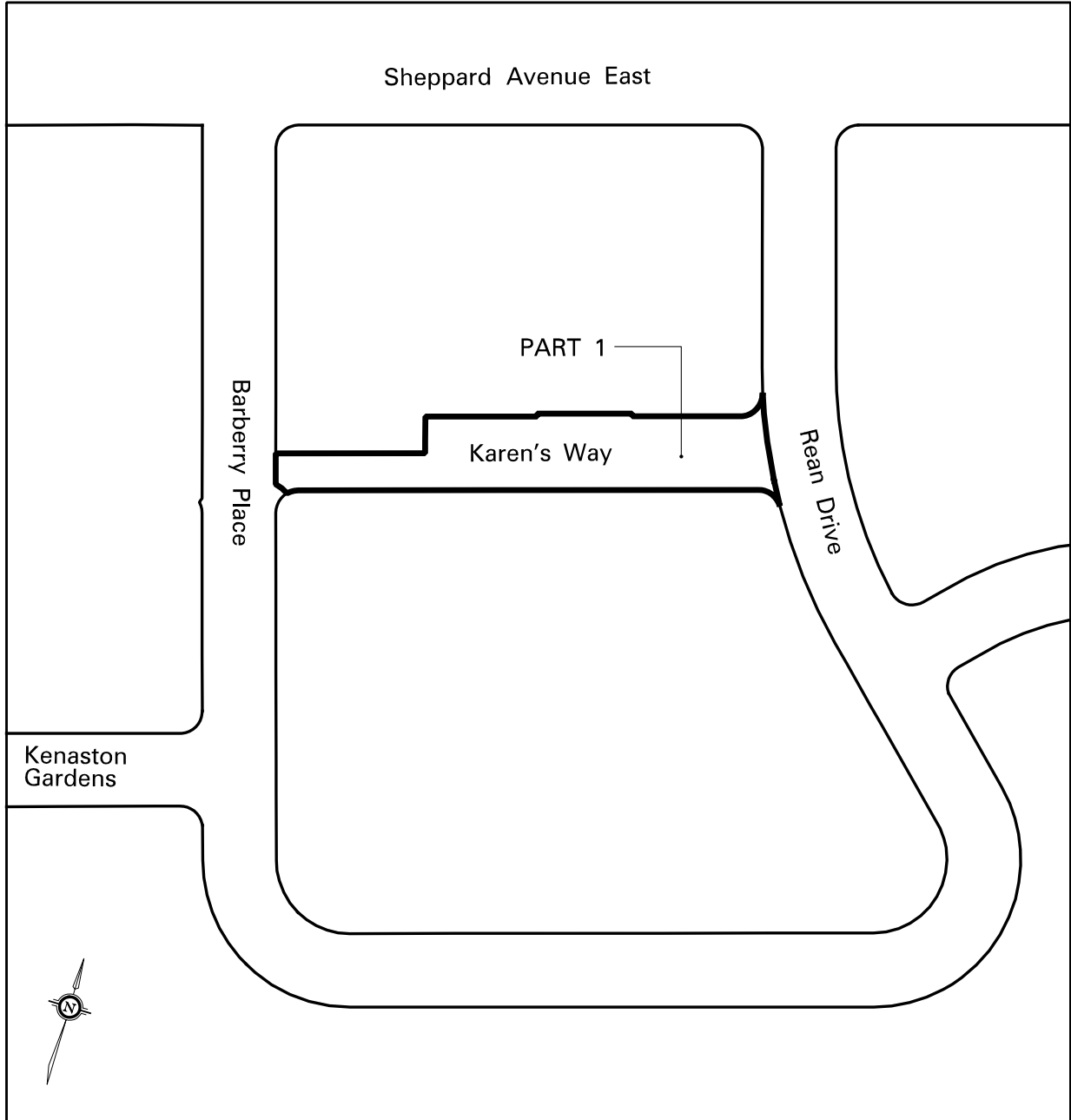
Mika Raisanen, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

**ATTACHMENT**

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Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-029

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-029, showing the location of Karen's Way extending between Barberry Place and Rean Drive.



PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET  
RENAMING OF KAREN'S WAY  
BETWEEN BARBERRY PLACE AND REAN DRIVE

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

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE  
PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

WARD 17 - DON VALLEY NORTH  
DATE: MARCH 25, 2019

SKETCH No. PS-2019-029