

**North York Community Preservation Panel**

April 23, 2019

North York Community Council  
North York Civic Centre  
Main floor, 5100 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M2N 5V7

**Re: NY5.16 Renaming of Karen's Way extending between Barberry Place and Rean Drive (Ward 17 – Statutory: City of Toronto Act, 2006)**

Dear Chair Pasternak, and Members of the North York Community Council,

The North York Community Preservation Panel respectfully requests that you support the renaming of Karen's Way extending between Barberry Place and Rean Drive as Thomas Clark Way, and recommend it to City Council.

The most important reason to rename this street to commemorate important early settler, Thomas Clark, is that in addition the contributions he made to the community, 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 the Ontario Heritage Act by the former City of North York on June 22, 1994. Both a church and a schoolhouse built in the 1800s on land that had been Thomas Clark's, have long since been demolished.

In 1841, Thomas Clark bought land on the south side of today's Sheppard Avenue between today's Bayview Avenue and Leslie Street, where this street is located. His first wife, Elinor Linton, died in 1844, after having seven children. He subsequently married Nancy Miller, and in 1855, built a new home for his growing family, which eventually included thirteen children, to replace the original log cabin. A photo of the second house, taken by Jane Arnio, a descendant, is attached. Its construction is unusual, with a fieldstone foundation eighteen inches thick, and exterior walls that are three bricks thick. All the lumber used to build the house and the handmade unique interior trim is white pine, cut on the property.

Thomas Clark was one of the leading members of the community, contributing to its education and spiritual life. He held meetings of the Wesleyan Methodists in his log cabin and was one of the founding members of Clark's Class, which became known as Clark's Congregation. He provided land for the first brick church of the area, the now-demolished former Oriole Methodist Church built in 1873, from which the present-day Bayview United Church developed.

He played a role in the education of the children in the area. In 1848, a brick schoolhouse to replace the log schoolhouse was built facing present-day Sheppard Avenue on land that had been his. In 1874, Thomas Clark sold one-half acre of his land for the construction of a new red brick schoolhouse, which stood until being demolished in 1910.

The North York Community Preservation Panel first recommended the name "Thomas Clark" for the name of this street in July 2014, in response to a request from Land & Property Surveys, Engineering & Construction Services. With difficulty, using historical documents and Ancestry.ca, five descendants of Thomas Clark were found, all of whom gave their consent for the street to be named to commemorate him: his great-great-great-grandniece, Jane Arnio, who lives in Toronto, his great-great-grandnephew, Thomas Douglas Clark who lives in Huntsville, his great-great-great-grandniece, Sandra Dagner Hufnagle who lives in Michigan, his great-nephew, Alan Clark, his great-great-great-great-granddaughter, Angela Fox, and his great-great-great-grandnephew, Roger Kerr.

Land and Property Surveys found that the name "Thomas Clark" had historical significance, that he had contributed to the community, and that the name was acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

Following receipt of the written consents, in December 2014, Councillor David Shiner was provided with the historical background, names of the consenting descendants, and asked for his support for the recommended name of "Thomas Clark", which was supported by the North York Historical Society. The street naming was put on hold since it was thought that it wouldn't be named until the street was extended to Kenaston Gardens, but in February 2018, the Panel confirmed to Councillor Shiner that the Panel continued to strongly recommend the name "Thomas Clark" for the name of the street and that the North York Historical Society continued to support the name.

On July 4, 2018, Councillor Shiner added the new item, NY32.92: Naming of Unassumed Street Between Rean Drive and Barberrry Place as "Karen's Way", to the agenda of the North York Community Council meeting. Since the North York Community Preservation Panel was unaware that this naming was going to be discussed, no member of the Panel was at the meeting to present the alternative name of Thomas Clark.

It would be very fitting for the unassumed street between Barberrry 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, and whose 1855 house near the street is the only remaining building from the area's pioneer past.

The North York Community Preservation Panel hopes that the North York Community Council will support this renaming and recommend it to City Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Ann Cross  
North York Community Preservation Panel

Attachment: Thomas Clark's 1855 House at 9 Barberrry Place – Photo by Jane Arnio, 3 May 2012