

Naming of an Existing Public Lane North of St. Clair Avenue West, Extending Between Nairn Avenue and Earlscourt Avenue

Date: February 27, 2019

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: 9 Davenport

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Cavliere Gino Cucchi Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located north of St. Clair Avenue West, extending between Nairn Avenue and Earlscourt Avenue.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Approve the name "Cavliere Gino Cucchi Lane" for an existing public lane located north of St. Clair Avenue West, extending between Nairn Avenue and Earlscourt Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install two street name signs is approximately \$500 and is included within the Transportation Services Division Operating Budget

DECISION HISTORY

This is the first time that this issue is before Community Council.

COMMENTS

An application was received on October 5, 2018 from a resident to name the existing lane located north of St. Clair Avenue West, extending between Nairn Avenue and Earls court Avenue, "Cavliere Gino Cucchi Lane", in honour of an active member of the St. Clair Community.

Cavliere Gino Cucchi

"Gino Cucchi immigrated to Canada from Italy in the summer of 1958. His first job was with a clothing manufacturing company, but he had always dreamed of owning his own clothing store. In 1973 Gino opened "Gino Men and Boys Fashions" which became an important fixture in the Italian Canadian community in Toronto.

Since then, Gino has been an active member of the St Clair community. He spearheaded the formation of the Corso Italia Business Improvement Association in 1984, and provided professional business leadership support to new business owners. He was an active member of the Corso Italia BIA from 1979 to 2004. Currently he rents his properties on St Clair West to other business owners, who he frequently assists with their own professional ambitions.

In terms of accomplishments outside of the business world, Gino has held dozens of fundraising dinners in honour of The Canadian Cancer Society, The Hospital for Sick Children, the Thalassemia Association, and, most recently, the After Breast Cancer Society. He has also been involved with international fundraising to provide support to peoples In Uganda, Ghana, and Mexico.

Since 1995, Gino has hosted "Edizione Speciale", his weekly program on CHIN radio. In 1998 he co-founded the installation of The Monument of Italian Immigrants at Joseph J. Piccininni Community Centre, which led to the publication of "A Monument for Italian-Canadian Immigrants" through the University of Toronto, in 1999.

45 years of community service provides us with more than enough material to prove why Gino L. Cucchi deserves a laneway in his name, but below we would like to highlight a few more:

- co-Chaired "Italian National Republic Day" festivities at Earls court Park (1989-2010)*
- received a Commemoration Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Confederation of Canada from the Governor General of Canada (1992)*
- received Certificate of Appreciation from Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Ontario Premier Michael Harris for The Monument of Italian Canadian Immigrants (1998)*
- was awarded "The Golden Jubilee Medal" on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II (2002)*
- received a certificate from His Holiness, Pope John Paul II and the Papal Delegation for World Youth Day 2002, for which Gino organized the agenda and procurements of the Pope and his delegates*
- was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario to the Council of the Colleges of Nurses of Ontario (2007-2014)*

- was awarded the Title of Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana, (Gino has been knighted by the President of the Italian Republic), conferred by the President of the Italian Republic Giorgio Napolitano, 12 June 2007
- was awarded a Gold Medal, conferred by Sergio Mattarella President of the Italian Republic, on 28 April 2018 for co-founding the Italian Fallen Workers Memorial."

Letter of Support from Alicia Vianga, Founder and Executive Director "After Breast Cancer:

"I first met Gino 10 years ago when he walked into my boutique on Rogers Road and told me that he believed in Corso Italia. He wanted to attract the right set of businesses for the neighbourhood and he firmly believed that my business was perfect for St. Clair. I happily obliged.

As I was new to the retail business, he was more than happy to guide and teach me. He told me, "do not take retail business personally, you will have up days and down days he told me "Just give good service to the client." Even today, this sentiment remains true and I now pass on this very wise message to other business owners.

Couple of years later, I told Gino that I wanted to help women suffering from breast cancer and that I needed his help. He was honored that I approached him and his immediately response to my request was a resounding "YES." With a big smile, he said "I will help you ".

Since then, Gino has been a vital devotee of after BREAST CANCER serving as the charities vice chair. He is a leader helping organize our Annual Pink Diamond Gala, an event that garners over 500 guests and attracts celebrities, politicians, community leaders and donors. Whenever I call on Gino for support-- as I often do -- he is always willing and never says NO.

December of last year, I once again reached out to Gino to provide some support for our annual Christmas event where we celebrate the women in our program. These women are financially disadvantaged and, for some, this is the only gift they received for Christmas. Gino understands that Christmas is a time to celebrate with family and friends and that it is also a time to give back to the community. He not only helped me find products for each of the women who attended the event, he came to meet the women in person. This gesture was beyond my expectations and it made the women feel special.

I have particularly appreciated Gino's excellent collaborative skills and his ability to bring people together. His deep interest in and commitment to helping people makes Gino an outstanding community leader, an amazing businessperson and a mentor to so many others always with the biggest heart and a bigger smile.

I am proud to call Gino my friend and colleague. I am even prouder to nominate him to have his name on the street behind our building."

Letter of Support from Carmelo Cucchi, TCDSB Art Consultant & son of the named party:

"My father Gino L. Cucchi was born In S. Donato Val di Comino (FR), and at age 17 left for Canada, arriving on the 7th of August, 1958. He started work in a clothing manufacturing company, but his dream was to one day own a clothing store. On March 1, 1973, he opened "Gino Men and Boys Fashion" on St. Clair Avenue West, four consecutive storefronts from 1288-1294, in the heart of the Toronto's Italian Community.

If my father was solely a business leader in the community, it would be enough to receive this honour. Gino Cucchi has been championing the activity of the area for 45 years. As the co-Chair of the West Clair Village Business Association, my father took on the re-imagining of the area. Gino spearheaded and led the committee to form the inaugural Corso Italia Business Improvement Association in 1984. My father has also provided countless hours of professional leadership support to new business owners, supporting their navigation of rules, bylaws, and guidelines. Seeing others succeed, as he did, is part of his accomplishments. He was a very active member of Corso Italia BIA for 25 years from 1979 to 2004.

Beyond the business, my father initiated ideas and events, led committees and created innovative experiences for the area and the community at large. Gino held dozens of fundraising dinners with all proceeds going towards: The Canadian Cancer Society (of which he was President of the West Toronto Unit from 1987 to 1992), The Hospital for Sick Children 1988- 1992, Thalassemia Association 1997, and recently, the After Breast Cancer Society. He has also been involved with international fundraising to provide various supports to peoples in Uganda, Ghana, and Mexico.

He coordinated the first ever "Bimbi Beth 1992, Day of the Child" festival in Toronto at EarlsCourt Park in 1992-1993.

As a proud Italian-Canadian, hundreds of events were implemented that celebrated the Italian expatriate community. In 1980, he was a member of the Italian Canadian National Congress. Since 1995, he has hosted "Edizione Speciale" on CHIN Radio. The erecting of "The Monument of Italian Immigrants" at Joseph J. Piccininni Community Centre, (1998) and its book publication through the University of Toronto, is a lasting tribute to the first wave of newcomers to the St Clair Avenue West area. My personal favorite was in 2003, when he chaired the internationally recognized world's longest strand of spaghetti at 153.31m!"

Consent was given by Mr. Cucchi, the named party.

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services and Councillor Bailao.

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from property owners/ residents who directly abut the lane as well as letters of support from local community members and organizations. A petition of general community support was also submitted by the applicant.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2018-097.

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

[Street Naming Policy](#)

CONTACT

Kerry Ferguson, OLS, Manager, Land and Property Surveys, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services, Telephone: 416 392-7757, Email: Kerry.Ferguson@toronto.ca

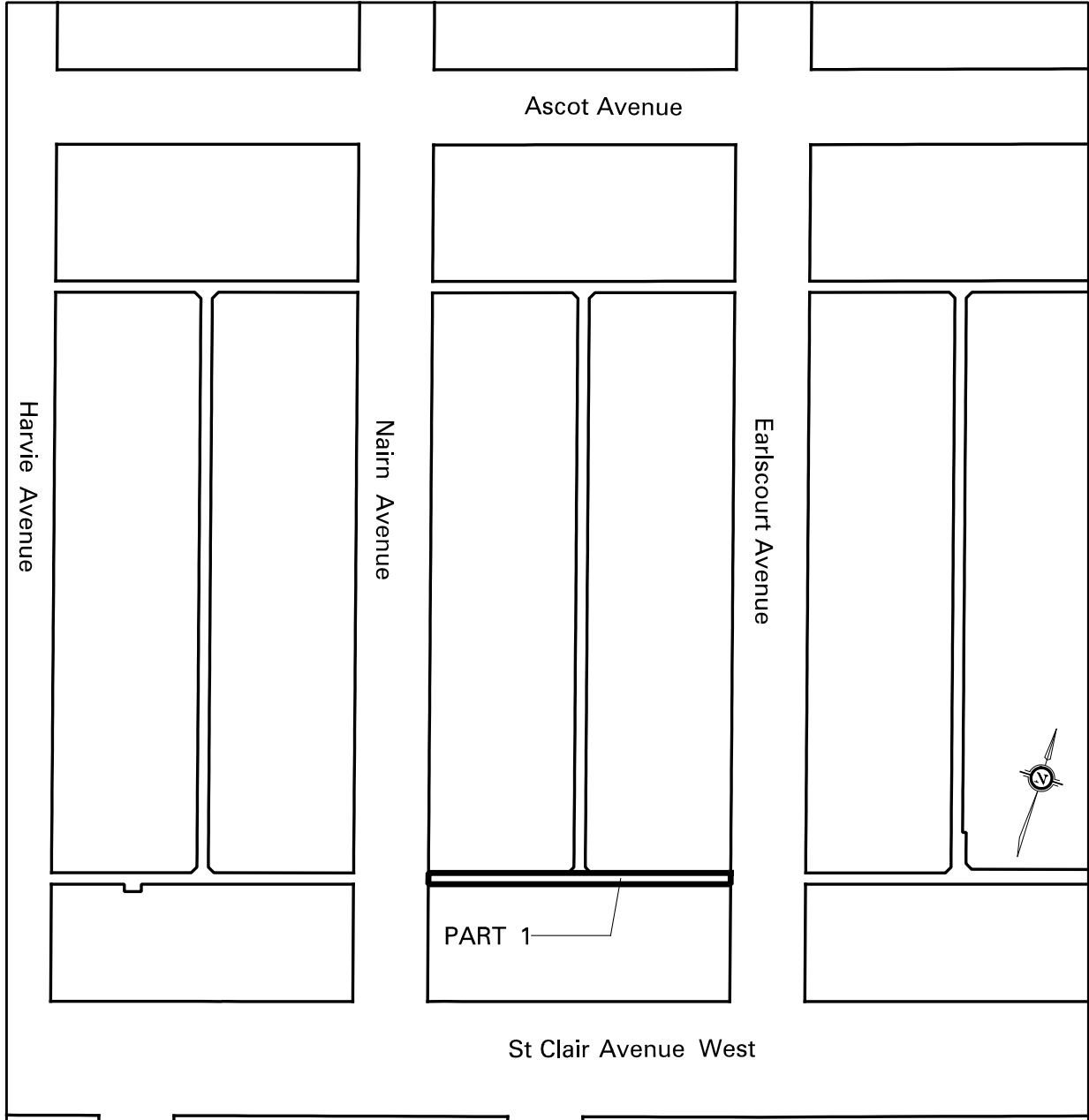
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2018-097

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2018-097, showing the location of an existing public lane north of St. Clair Avenue West, extending between Nairn Avenue and Earlscourt Avenue.



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

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE
PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

NAMING OF AN EXISTING PUBLIC LANE NORTH OF
ST. CLAIR AVENUE WEST, EXTENDING BETWEEN
NAIRN AVENUE AND EARLSCOURT AVENUE

WARD 9 – DAVENPORT
DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2019

SKETCH N . PS-2018-097