

REPORT FOR ACTION

Naming of an existing Public Lane north of Eastern Avenue, west of Logan Avenue and extending southerly from Louis Kesten Lane

Date: August 21, 2019
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services
Wards: 14 Toronto-Danforth

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Bakery Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located north of Eastern Avenue, west of Logan Avenue and extending southerly from Louis Kesten Lane.

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 "Bakery Lane" for an existing public lane located north of Eastern Avenue, west of Logan Avenue and extending southerly from Louis Kesten Lane.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install two street name signs is approximately \$250 and is included within the Transportation Services Division Operating Budget

DECISION HISTORY

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

An application was received on May 21, 2019 from an architect commissioned by a resident, to name the existing public lane located north of Eastern Avenue, west of Logan Avenue and extending southerly from Louis Kesten Lane, "Bakery Lane" commemorating local history of the long-running bakery business which operated out of a home on this lane in 1887.

The resident is requesting addressing for the unnamed public lane for their proposed rear lane suite. The proposed suite has no access from Booth Avenue, and thus must be addressed from the public lane at the rear of the property. This naming request is pursuant to and required in order to proceed with the municipal addressing application at this site.

"Bakery Lane"

"A baker by the name of Lewis Brown purchased one of the lots (Lot 38) of Plan M19 in the late 1880s and commenced his long-running bakery business out of his home on this site in 1887. What began as a small family bakery servicing the local area, which was populated with hundreds of labourers who settled in the streets of the area that was close to the industries that employed them, would, over time, grow into a successful industry occupying upwards of 15 lots of Plan M19. Lewis Brown was one of dozens of bakers in the City of Toronto's competitive bread industry. His company, Browns' Bread Limited, remained a family business well into the twentieth century.

A 1927 advertisement for the bakery emphasized the fact that it was a Toronto company "owned in Canada and managed by Canadians." By the 1930s it was the largest, independent bread bakery in Canada. The incremental expansion of the original Browns' Bread industrial complex on Eastern Avenue was a result of the changes in operations (such as the need to introduce modern equipment). Additional floor space was also required as the bakery expanded their product lines to include items such as cakes and cookies. The bread business was very competitive and typically low margin, thus bakers almost always had to expand their product lines to offset their costs. Large portions of the building complex were dedicated to the delivery and shipping of products, with drive sheds and truck repair shops both to the rear of the complex off the lane, and also across the street, on the south side of Eastern Avenue.

The northerly expansions resulted in the integration of some of the earlier residential buildings and ultimately to the demolition of some of the earlier houses.

Browns' Bread Limited was ultimately amalgamated and merged with other corporations – for example, up until the 1950s Brown's Bread Limited was a Division of Inter City Baking Company Limited; then in the 1960-70s the operations were under the General Bakeries Plant; and ultimately by the 1980s the factory was under the control of the George Weston Limited/ Weston Foods Corporation who ceased operations in 2015".

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

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from property owners/ residents who directly abut the lane.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2019-085.

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

Street Naming Policy

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-085

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-085, showing the location of an existing public lane north of Eastern Avenue, west of Logan Avenue and extending southerly from Louis Kesten Lane.

