

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM47.13	ACTION			Ward: 16
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Request for report on Changing Garamond Court to Sakura Court - by Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, seconded by Councillor Cynthia Lai

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, seconded by Councillor Cynthia Lai, recommend that:

1. City Council direct the Chief Engineer & Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services to instruct staff to begin the process for renaming Garamond Court to Sakura Court, including the required community consultation, and to report back to the North York Community Council in the second quarter of 2023.

Summary

Garamond Court in Don Mills is home of the much loved Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. Founded in 1963, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is a not-for-profit organization which celebrates the unique culture, history and legacy of Japanese Canadians for the benefit of all Canadians. The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is recognized worldwide as an important and vibrant community institution.

With 5,200 members, almost half of which are of non-Japanese ancestry, the centre attracts over 210,000 visitors to its festivals, concerts, martial arts tournaments and special events annually. It welcomes more than 15,000 students from the Greater Toronto Area and beyond each year to participate in seminars on Japanese history, culture and the Japanese Canadian experience.

In the next year Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre will be planting 70 cherry trees, also known as Sakura, along Garamond Court. Sakura are very popular for their springtime blossoms and the Japanese celebration of the sakura bloom each year is an important cultural festival.

In recognition of the cultural significance of the sakura bloom, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre's presence in the community, and as a part of the emerging Wynford cultural corridor, it is appropriate to rename Garamond Court as Sakura Court.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM47.13

