

Naming of an existing Public Lane south of Queen Street East, extending between Morse Street and Carlaw Avenue

Date: January 31, 2023

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering & Construction Services
General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

Wards: Ward 14 – Toronto-Danforth

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Kit Hood Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located south of Queen Street East, extending between Morse Street and Carlaw Avenue.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy which can be found at <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/street-naming/>

This naming proposal is in alignment with the objectives of the [Guiding Principles](#) for Commemoration in the Public Realm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering & Construction Services and Economic Development & Culture recommend that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Kit Hood Lane" for an existing public lane located south of Queen Street East, extending between Morse Street and Carlaw Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

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

COMMENTS

An application was received on November 11, 2021, from a resident, requesting to name the existing public lane located south of Queen Street East, extending between Morse Street and Carlaw Avenue as "Kit Hood Lane", honouring a local community figure and television producer.

The following background and rationale provided by the applicant:

"Kit Hood"

My sister and I would like to name the laneway behind 935 Queen Street after our late father Kit Hood. He co-created, developed and produced the television series Degrassi for over 2 decades at that location.

Playing With Time was a Toronto-based television production company which was established in 1976 and produced Degrassi episodes into the 1990's. Our father was instrumental in building Degrassi, a series that touched and influenced the lives of many children and youth through the years. Degrassi is followed in over 100 countries and is translated into over a dozen languages.

I have talked to many of the people that my father worked with over the years and a great number of them have mentioned the positive, encouraging and mentoring influence my father had on them and their careers. After my father retired, he continued to rent the Playing With Time offices to Woodgreen Community Services and the Red Door Family Shelter which acted as an emergency shelter and support for women and children affected by domestic abuse, families experiencing a housing crisis and refugee claimants with nowhere else to turn.

Kit Hood Historical Research

Christopher 'Kit' Hood (24 March 1943 – 20 January 2020) was born in London, England and died in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia. He worked as a film editor and was working for Walt Disney productions in London before coming to Canada in 1969. His early work was in advertising editing commercials. He established his production company, Playing with Time, with his partner Linda Schulyer at 935 Queen Street East in 1976. The partnership's first major project was Jimmy: Playing with Time. Eventually it became a 90-minute documentary looking at the life of an itinerant piano player participating in a piano marathon competition at the Canadian National Exhibition. Like many artists, during the early years they supported the business by taking teaching jobs and doing commercial editing, as well as grants and a contract from the NFB. Playing with Time best known for the 'Degrassi Street' TV series (The Kids of Degrassi Street (1979-1986), Degrassi Junior High (1987-1989), Degrassi High (1989-1991), Degrassi Talks (1992), and School's Out (1992)) were a phenomenon in Canadian TV production in the 1970s and 80s. A generation of young people grew up following the lives of its characters and actors. After his retirement, he rented the building to Woodgreen

Community Services and the Red Door Family Shelter. The building was added to the City's Heritage Property Register as a listed property on 5 May 2021

Complete Historical Research Report is available upon request.

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

Councillor Paula Fletcher, Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth, supports this naming.

Kit Hood passed away on January 20, 2020.

Consent was provided by Georgia Hood, daughter of the named party.

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

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

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2022-004.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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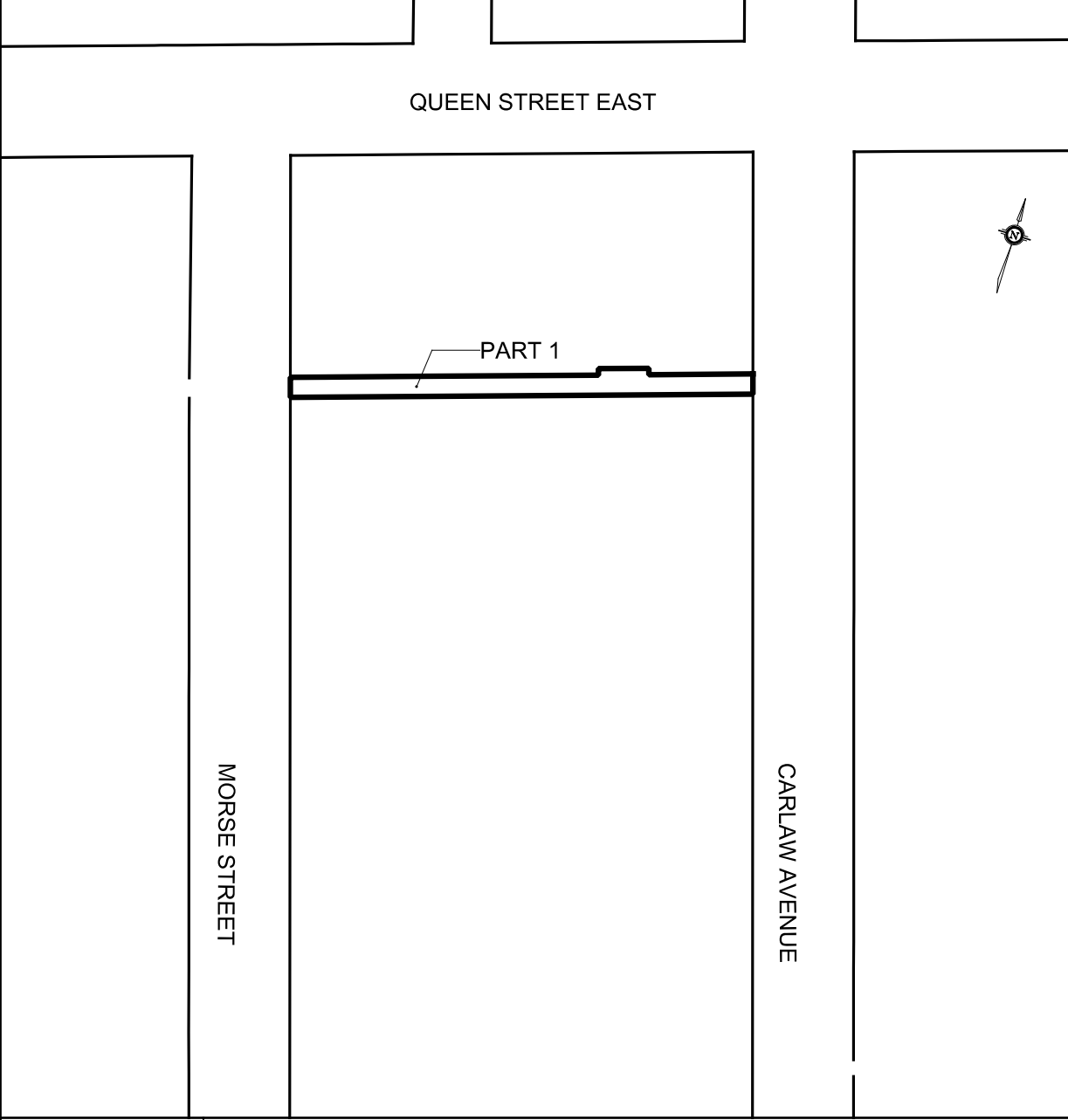

SIGNATURE

Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2022-004

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2022-004 showing the location of an existing public lane located south of Queen Street East, extending between Morse Street and Carlaw Avenue.

	
 <p>ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES LAND & PROPERTY SURVEYS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NAMING OF AN EXISTING PUBLIC LANE SOUTH OF QUEEN STREET EAST, EXTENDING BETWEEN MORSE STREET AND CARLAW AVENUE</p>
<p>NOTE: THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM OFFICE RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE</p>	<p>WARD 14 - TORONTO-DANFORTH DATE: JANUARY 18, 2022</p>
<p>CHECK BY ANA MICHALEK PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT</p>	<p>SKETCH No. PS-2022-004</p>