

Naming of an existing Public Lane South of Melville Avenue, extending Westerly from Miles Place

Date: September 2, 2025

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: Ward 11 - University - Rosedale

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Ed Watling Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located south of Melville Avenue, extending westerly from Miles Place.

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 and Construction Services and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommend that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Ed Watling Lane" for an existing public lane located south of Melville Avenue, extending westerly from Miles Place.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$600 has been fully provided for in the City's 2025 Transportation Services Division's Operating Budget. As such, there will be no impact on the current year's budget.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

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

COMMENTS

At its meeting on July 19, 2022, City Council adopted the City of Toronto Commemorative Framework and approved revisions to the Street Naming Policy. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX34.6>

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

An application was received, from a resident requesting to name the existing public lane located south of Melville Avenue, extending westerly from Miles Place, as Ed Watling Lane, in honour of a local community figure.

The applicant provided the following background and rationale:

“Ed Watling Lane”

"...My beloved husband Edward passed away on 26th June 2020. Edward lived all his life at 118 Yarmouth Rd. He was born in the house where I now reside. He died at the age of 93 after a short stay at Toronto General Hospital.

My husband was well-known on Yarmouth Rd. His parents purchased the property over 100 years ago. Our extended family and I will be delighted to see my husband's name honoured in this way.

On countless occasions, Edward recounted the history and changes to Yarmouth Road, especially at the annual street party. There is a documentary on Yarmouth Rd's history, in which my beloved husband is featured. He shares his experiences in the documentary. I am also sharing the link of the documentary with this email for your further knowledge about him (<https://vimeo.com/55500641>)

I will continue living in this home for a long time. Our extended family of children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren all feel much attached to 118 Yarmouth Rd.

Edward was the last of seven children in his family. His nieces, nephews and other members of the Watling family and neighbours feel this is another way to keep his memory alive.

Edward was a great human being. He helped many people, including welcoming refugees to our house as a tenant. He helped them improve their English and told them stories about Canada, especially Toronto. Whoever lived with us in this house became like a family member. They also want the lane behind my home to be named after Edward. One of our tenants is Lateef Johar Baloch. He is a well-known human rights defender from Balochistan. He lived with us for years.

The lane does not have a name currently, and it will only enhance the Yarmouth Rd community. Therefore, we request that the lane be named after Edward, as he was a lifelong resident of the street..."

Historical Research on Ed Watling

Ed Watling was a well-known and respected figure in the Yarmouth Road community. A lifelong resident, he became a fixture in the neighbourhood through his warm, welcoming interactions with neighbours and his active participation in the annual Yarmouth Road festival. As the community evolved and the demographics of the area shifted, Mr. Watling embraced Toronto's growing diversity with generosity and openness.

He welcomed newcomers and individuals with refugee status into his home as tenants, offering not only shelter but also meaningful support to help them acclimate to life in Canada. His hospitality extended beyond housing, he provided opportunities for tenants to learn about Canadian society, improve their language skills, and feel connected to their new community.

Mr. Watling was also known for sharing his deep knowledge of the neighbourhood and Toronto's history, drawing from personal memories that spanned back to the 1930s. Through his lived experience and commitment to inclusion, Mr. Watling contributed to the social fabric of the Yarmouth Road area.

A 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 Dianne Saxe, Ward 11 University-Rosedale, supports this naming.

Consent was provided by "Gloria Watling", the commemorated party's widow.

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from the local community.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. **PS-2025-035**.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. **PS-2025-035**

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2025-035, showing the location of an existing public lane located south of Melville Avenue, extending westerly from Miles Place.

<p>Toronto ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES LAND & PROPERTY SURVEYS</p> <p><small>NOTE:</small> THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM OFFICE RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE</p> <p><small>CHECKED BY: R. SEGUIN</small> <small>PREPARED BY: S. LOMBARDO</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NAMING OF A PUBLIC LANE LOCATED SOUTH OF MELVILLE AVENUE EXTENDING WESTERLY FROM MILES PLACE</p> <p>WARD 11 - UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE DATE: JUNE 13, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SKETCH No. PS-2025-035</p>
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