

Naming of a Public Lane Located South of Deforest Road, extending West from Durie Street

Date: April 13, 2026

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: Ward 4 - Parkdale - High Park

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Swansea Centennial Lane" be approved to identify the naming of a public lane located south of Deforest Road, extending west from Durie Street.

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

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

1. Approve the name "Swansea Centennial Lane" for the naming of a public lane located south of Deforest Road, extending west from Durie Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$600.00 and is included within the Transportation Services Division's approved 2026 Operating 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 on July 15, 2025, requesting the naming of a public lane located south of Deforest Road, extending west from Durie Street to, “Swansea Centennial Lane”, commemorating a century since the incorporation of the Village of Swansea in 1926.

The following background and rationale were provided by the applicant:

Swansea Centennial

The existing, unnamed laneway serves as an important gathering space centrally located within the Swansea community. It provides direct access to the Swansea Town Hall at 95 Lavinia Avenue and the adjoining Swansea Memorial Library, making it a natural focal point for local activities and connections.

The new name would serve as a lasting tribute to Swansea’s unique journey, highlighting its evolution from a vital Indigenous gathering place and trade route to the beloved community it is today. Despite its annexation by the City of Toronto in 1967, Swansea has maintained its distinct identity, defined by its stunning natural boundaries of Lake Ontario, the Humber River, and High Park. “Swansea Centennial Lane” would not only celebrate its past but also serve as a reminder of its enduring spirit, its deep Indigenous roots, and the collective efforts of generations that have preserved its natural beauty and fostered its strong community ties.

This name proposal is strongly supported by Swansea’s founding community organizations, the Swansea Area Ratepayers, the Swansea Seniors Association, the Swansea Horticultural Society, and the Swansea Historical Society, as well as the board of the Swansea Town Hall and representatives of the Toronto Public Library’s Swansea Memorial Library.

Swansea Centennial Research and Review

The Economic Development and Culture Division (EDC) has reviewed the application to name the unnamed laneway south of Deforest Road, west of Durie Street in the Toronto neighbourhood known as Swansea. The proposed name, “Swansea Centennial Lane,” commemorates the 100th anniversary of the former Village of Swansea. The following

summarizes EDC's research and review of the proposed name, undertaken in accordance with the City's Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

As outlined by the applicant and confirmed through City staff research, Swansea was incorporated as a village in 1926, independent of York Township. At the time of incorporation, Swansea had a population of 3,255 and 908 buildings. Its strong community spirit continued to grow, attracting more residents to the area, with the 1931 census reporting a population of 5,031. The Village of Swansea maintained a Public School Board, Volunteer Fire Brigade, Police Force, and the Swansea Memorial Library. In 1967, the Village of Swansea was amalgamated into the City of Toronto. Despite local governance shifting to Toronto, residents of Swansea maintained their tight knit community and used their former municipal buildings to host robust community groups that offer a variety of programs.

Historically, the area now known as Swansea served as an important area for First Nation communities, located at the mouth of the Humber River, near the Carrying Place trail that served as a major transportation and trade route between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe.

The application noted the pride Swansea residents have in the natural beauty of the landscape, defined by the Humber River to the west, Lake Ontario shoreline on the south, and High Park on the east. Swansea is a distinct Toronto neighbourhood with an independent history that contributes to the overall mosaic of the city. The application includes the support from several civic groups including: Swansea Area Seniors Association; Toronto Public Library, Swansea Memorial Branch; Community Liaison Committee; Swansea Historical Society; Swansea Horticultural Society; Swansea Recreation Advisory Council; and Swansea Area Ratepayers Association. The application is also supported by individual signatures surrounding the laneway to be named.

In summary, as demonstrated in the application and confirmed through staff review, the Swansea community will mark the centennial anniversary of its village incorporation in 2026. Over the past century, the community has sustained a strong local identity, characterized by civic engagement and stewardship of the natural environment. This milestone reflects the community's long-standing history and its continued commitment to preserving the cultural and environmental qualities that define the area.

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 Gord Perks, Ward 4 Parkdale High-Park, supports this naming.

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from the local community. Several letters of support were received from local community organizations such, the Swansea Area Ratepayers, the Swansea Seniors Association, the Swansea Horticultural Society, the Swansea Historical Society, the board of the Swansea Town Hall and representatives of the Toronto Public Library's Swansea Memorial Library.

The lane is shown on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2026-006.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

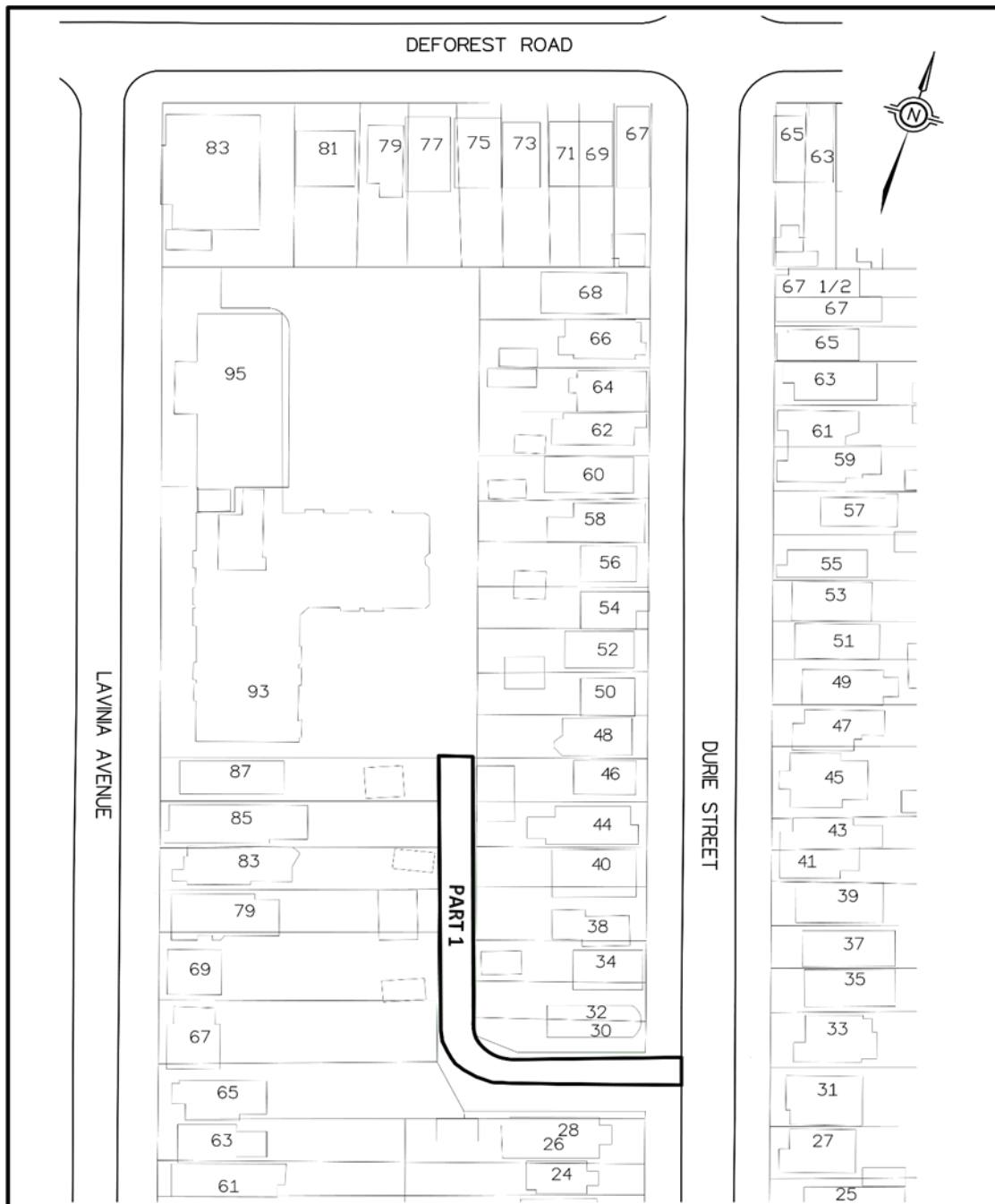
Avi Bachar, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2026-006

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2026-006, showing the location of the existing public lane located south of Deforest Road, extending west from Durie Street.



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

CHECK BY: R. SEGUIN
 PREPARED BY: D. TAACA

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET
NAMING OF A PUBLIC LANE
LOCATED SOUTH OF DEFOREST ROAD,
EXTENDING WEST FROM DURIE STREET

WARD 4 - PARKDALE - HIGH PARK
 DATE: FEB 25, 2026

SKETCH No. PS-2026-006