

Naming of a Public Lane west of Yonge Street, north of Macpherson Avenue

Date: May 28, 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 11 – University-Rosedale

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Woloch Family Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located west of Yonge Street, north of Macpherson 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 [Guiding Principles](#) for Commemoration in the Public Realm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 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 "Woloch Family Lane" for an existing public lane located west of Yonge Street, north of Macpherson Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$300.00 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.

A complete application package was received on September 18, 2025, from a resident requesting to name the existing public lane located west of Yonge Street, north of Macpherson Avenue as "Woloch Family Lane", in honour of local community figures.

The following background and rationale was provided by the applicant:

"Woloch Family Lane"

"The strong Polish community today in Toronto largely results from the pioneers who settled across Canada seeking a better life.

In Manitoba many came as a result of the expansion of the CPR railway from Stonewall (25 kms north of Winnipeg) to Toulon (59 kms north of Winnipeg) in 1898 followed by the Colonization Road in 1900.

Joseph Paluch immigrated from Poland in 1904. Karoline Dzedzic arrived from Poland in 1901 aged 12.

They married in 1908 and bought a \$10.00 homestead and built a log house.

They had seven children, 4 girls and 3 boys, daughter Beatrice, born in 1909, later met and married Peter Woloch from Poland.

The homestead sold 2.5 acres to the School Board in around 1910 to construct a 1 room schoolhouse. This became the North Polson School which Beatrice, her bothers, sisters and cousins all attended.

Peter Woloch was born into a farming community in Southern Poland in 1901. He was too young for the World War 1 fighting but afterwards was called up for National Service. Having a knowledge of horses, he was conscripted into the Polish Cavalry. Being the youngest child in the family, he stayed at home while his elder brothers relocated to Brazil, France and Canada. Eventually he too left and after some time in France with his brother, he emigrated to Canada arriving in Quebec City on the Empress of France in 1927. Peter moved to Winnipeg to join another brother in running a dairy. In Winnipeg he met Beatrice Paluch and they married in 1932. Peter became a Naturalised Canadian Citizen in 1933.

Their daughter Irene was born the next year and the family moved towards Toronto.

In Toronto, Peter worked as a machinist while Beatrice ran the corner store in Egbert. This included selling gasoline from a pump plus issuing Ontario car licence plates together with looking after Irene and her new daughter Joan. Peter, Beatrice and family became parishioners of St. Stanislas Church (Queen St. West & Denison Ave.) and were members of the St. Stanislaus Credit Union. In 1946 Peter and Beatrice purchased numbers 8 & 10 MacPherson Avenue. At that time the Number 8 Lot was undeveloped. Number 10 Macpherson was rented to roomers and under existing war-time regulations, roomers were entitled to remain. The first summer in 1946, Peter and his friends commenced construction on the bungalow at #8 MacPherson. That winter only the basement was constructed & covered and that was the family's accommodation heated by a wood stove. Gradually as roomers moved away, the family took their place in Number 10 Macpherson. Construction on the bungalow was completed which Irene and her family later occupied # 8 for a number of years. The planting of historic lilacs along the west side of the lane were added.

Peter worked as a machinist, initially at Hamiton Gear & Machine and latterly for Willard's chocolates until his retirement. He died in 1978 and Beatrice in 1997. The properties were inherited by their daughters Irene Tranfananko and Joan Copping. Irene married Peter Trafananko, a farmer's son from rural Yorktown, Saskatchewan and learned shorthand for her secretarial work. Irene passed in 2020. Her husband was the "public face" of air-conditioning expertise for Beaver Engineering. He passed in 2025. Joan became the first member of her family to enter university and achieved a BSc(N) and RN in nursing. She was a member of the Polish Club at University of Toronto. After graduation, she commenced working for the City of Toronto as a Public Health Nurse, later to become a Clinical Manager in Geriatrics at Runnymede and Bridgepoint Health Centres.

Joan married Frank Copping, an accountant from England and they continue to live in #10 Macpherson. 25 years ago, they planted the Boston Ivy and Virginia Creeper on the back wall of 1140 Yonge Street resulting in a huge wall of "green" in the summer and "red" in the Fall. They have assumed responsibility of keeping the lane clean as street sweepers rarely visit. This includes removing discarded cigarette ends and other garbage and every Fall, collecting the thousands of fallen Ivy leaves. This year marks nearly 80 years of continued ownership of 8 & 10 Macpherson Avenue by the Woloch Family. In recognition of over ¾ Century of the family ownership, the positive Immigrant Experience, the contribution to a greener and cleaner City, it is proposed to name the lane "Woloch Family Lane".

Woloch Family Research and Review

The Economic Development and Culture Division (EDC) has reviewed the application to name an unnamed laneway north of Macpherson Avenue, located west of Yonge Street in the Summerhill neighbourhood. The application seeks the commemorative name "Woloch Family Lane." The submission includes a Woloch family history, evidence of community support, and a letter of support from Councillor Saxe (Ward 11 – University Rosedale). The following summarizes EDC's research and review of the proposed name, undertaken in accordance with the City's Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

The applicant has provided background information on the Woloch family, tracing Peter Woloch (1901–1978) and Beatrice Woloch (née Paluch) (1909–1997). In the 1930s, the couple moved from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Toronto. They became homeowners on Macpherson Avenue, where they purchased two adjacent properties and raised two daughters. Following the deaths of Peter and Beatrice, the ownership of the properties transferred to their children, who continue to reside there. The applicant also notes that the Woloch family were parishioners of St. Stanislas Church and active members of Toronto's Polish community. The family has maintained gardens and undertaken regular cleanings the laneway for decades.

The applicant submitted evidence of support for the proposed name from abutting neighbours. Councillor Saxe also supplied a letter supporting the proposed name.

In summary, as outlined in the application and confirmed through City staff research, the Woloch family has had a continuous presence on Macpherson Avenue since 1948.

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

Consent was provided by Joan Copping (née Woloch), family member 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.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2026-015.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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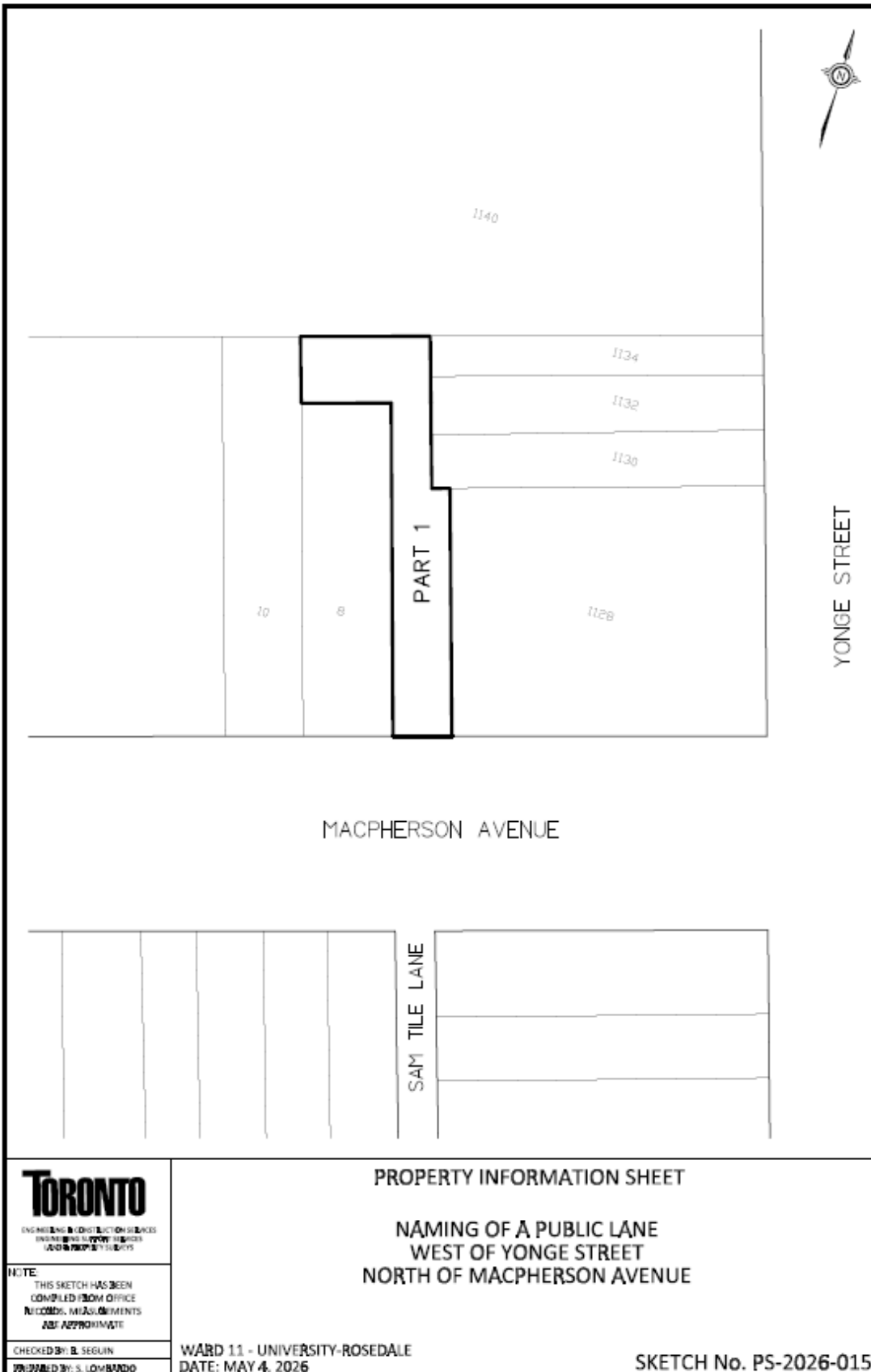
Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2026-015

Attachment No. 2 – Letter of Support from Councillor Dianne Saxe

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2026-015, showing the location of an existing public lane located west of Yonge Street, north of Macpherson Avenue.



Attachment No. 2 – Letter of Support from Councillor Dianne Saxe, Toronto City Councillor for Ward 11, University- Rosedale



January 22, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my support for the renaming of the laneway north of Macpherson between Avenue Rd. and Yonge St. "Woloch Family Lane."

This proposed renaming has secured more than 60% support from adjoining landowners, honours the Toronto and Polish-Canadian immigrant experience, and supports effective City management and emergency response by providing a name to an otherwise anonymous laneway.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Councillor Dianne Saxe
Ward 11, University-Rosedale
January 22nd, 2026