



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Branch Renaming: Perth/Dupont

Date: February 26, 2024
To: Naming Committee
From: City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide background information to the Naming Committee about the renaming of the Perth/Dupont neighbourhood branch before Toronto Public Library (TPL) begins the name selection process. The new branch name will comply with TPL's [Naming Policy](#) and incorporate input from community and stakeholder engagement.

The Perth/Dupont branch will be relocating to a newly-built facility at 299 Campbell Avenue. Since the branch will no longer be located by Perth Avenue, a new name is required. Initial stakeholder feedback received in consultations held as part of the design phase of the development identified community interest to rename the branch "Junction Triangle" to reflect the neighbourhood's longstanding name and its railway history. Library staff are recommending a public consultation process to assess community support and provide an opportunity for feedback on this proposed name.

The consultation process for the renaming will be launched in March. A summary of community feedback, along with a recommendation for a name will be presented to the Naming Committee for consideration. The Naming

Committee's recommended name for the Perth/Dupont branch will be considered by the Board at its June meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for the renaming is available from the approved Perth/Dupont – 299 Campbell Avenue Capital Project budget.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and agrees with it.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

A focus on equity is embedded throughout [TPL's Strategic Plan](#) to ensure that library services and actions break down barriers to access and increase inclusion. This focus includes a commitment to ensure that everyone who wants to use the library feels welcome and represented in TPL spaces and is able to access the Library's services, and this includes the process for naming branches.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

TPL's Equity Statement outlines the library's commitment to creating and maintaining work and public service environments where everyone is welcomed, included and supported, and that are grounded in tolerance and mutual respect, so that library customers, partners, staff and the public can freely and equitably access or deliver library services which meet the changing needs of Torontonians. TPL welcomes diversity and supports equity and inclusion, and this extends to branch names and the way in which they are selected.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

TPL's [Naming Policy](#) requires that names for library branches, rooms, programs and collections be approved by the Board, including honorary naming or naming with a gift.

The policy outlines the naming of branches based on the following priorities:

- the Library will give priority to naming its buildings after their geographic location, either the community or the street location where they are situated;
- alternatively, consideration will be given to naming, where appropriate, after the type of service or function offered at that branch;
- in exceptional circumstances, consideration will be given to naming a branch after an individual whose contribution to the Library or the City of Toronto, is well documented and is widely recognized and valued. At least two years shall have passed since the individual's death.

For the renaming of branches, in addition to adhering to the criteria above, the policy outlines that the following criteria will apply:

- new naming opportunities may arise when a facility is redeveloped or renovated and will be utilized for a different purpose.
- appropriate recognition of previous donors or honorees may be included in the new or renovated facility;
- when renaming does occur and the original naming opportunity was after an individual, all reasonable effort will be made to inform, in advance, the original donor or honoree and/or their immediate family.

TPL's Naming Policy, which was last updated in 2014, will be reviewed and proposed updates will be presented to the Naming Committee and Board for approval in 2024. Updates to the policy will reflect the City's Guiding Principles for Commemoration, relevant aspects of the City's Property Naming Policy, as well as the learning from the process for renaming these two branches.

COMMENTS

Perth/Dupont Background

The Perth/Dupont branch will be relocating and expanding to a new site at 299 Campbell Ave. One of TPL's smallest branches since it opened in 1977, the branch will be replaced with a 10,000 square foot facility on a single floor plate at the base of a residential rental building. The new branch will be an open and light-filled space offering modern library services that are responsive to the needs of the local community now and into the future. The current branch will remain open at the existing location during the construction phase. TPL has recently taken possession of the space allocated for the branch within the overall development, and construction of the branch interior is projected to start in mid-2024 with plans to open in 2025.

Proposed New Name for Perth/Dupont

Given the new location of the branch, staff are recommending selection of a new name. Through community consultation during the design phase of the development, staff received feedback from the community that they would like to rename the branch in order to reflect the identity of the neighbourhood. The name Junction Triangle has been proposed by community stakeholders, which would align with the area's history and culture. The name reflects the intersection of railway lines that formed a triangle in the neighborhood and the sense of community that has been built around it. Community feedback also suggested the inclusion of a railway theme and the history of the Junction Triangle to be incorporated in the design of the new branch. It was suggested that the building's exterior design and street presence incorporate elements such as iron, rivets, wood and trains.

The area has undergone significant changes over the past century. The Junction Triangle neighbourhood is named for the historical intersection of the Canadian National Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway corridors. The first CP station at the location was built in 1885. The area experienced a decline in economic activity as the railway industry declined. However, community efforts to revitalize the Junction Triangle in the 1990s led to its transformation into a vibrant and diverse neighborhood with a thriving arts and cultural scene. The area's identity was shaped by community activism, including successful campaigns to preserve historic buildings and landmarks. The Junction

Branch Renaming: Perth/Dupont

February 26, 2024

Page 4 of 6

Triangle's evolution reflects broader trends in urbanization, industrialization, and community engagement in Toronto's development. Thus, the Junction Triangle serves as a compelling example of the potential for community-led initiatives to drive positive change in urban areas¹. Renaming the branch is seen as an important step in further enhancing the sense of belonging and connection throughout the community.

Public Consultation Approach for Perth/Dupont Renaming

Staff will launch a consultation process with the local community to gauge support and feedback for the proposed name, Junction Triangle branch. Consultation will include an online survey, as well as a public meeting, as required, to gather community feedback.

An Open House meeting to review the interior design of the new branch is scheduled for February 28, 2024, with support from the local Councillor. Proposed next steps for renaming of the branch will be shared at this meeting, including the opportunity to participate in a survey. The engagement process will be launched in March. A summary of community feedback, along with a recommendation for a name, will be presented to the Naming Committee for consideration. The Naming Committee's recommended name for the Perth/Dupont branch will be considered by the Board at its June meeting.

CONTACT

Shawn Mitchell, Director, Policy, Planning and Performance Management;
Tel: 416-395-5602; Email: smitchell@tpl.ca

Moe Hosseini-Ara, Director, Branch Operations and Customer Experience;
Tel: 416-397-5944; Email: mhoss@tpl.ca

¹ Source consulted: <https://wtjhs.ca/junction-history/>

SIGNATURE

Vickery Bowles
City Librarian



Naming Committee

Perth/Dupont Renaming

February 26, 2024

Perth/Dupont branch



Perth/Dupont branch

- Relocating to 299 Campbell Ave
- Naming Policy states “the library will give priority for naming its buildings after their geographic location, either the community or the street location”
- Junction Triangle branch proposed name by community stakeholders
- Public engagement and education in March
- Summary of feedback and recommendation for approval of name by Steering Committee and Board in June