

Correspondence regarding EICS-C-03-21- EICS July 8 2021

Dear Councillors,

As a life-long Burlington citizen, I was heartened to hear of the HDSB's recent decision to change the name of what was previously called Ryerson Public School, and of City Council's subsequent decision to likewise consider changing the name of the neighbouring park. Having seen (in John Bkila's replies to comments posted in response to Mayor Meed Ward's statement about this process online) that members of local Indigenous communities have expressed support for a potential change of the park name, I wanted to write to add my voice to those encouraging Council to make this change. Removing the name of one of the architects of genocide from public buildings and spaces represents the bare minimum that should be done as a means of working toward redressing the ongoing injustices of settler colonialism in this city. In addition to making this change, I urge Council to continue working with and listening to Indigenous communities and to direct resources to Indigenous-led or -supported initiatives that seek to respond to and address the past and present injustices of colonialism in this country and community.

Thank you,
Beth Marquis, Ph.D.
Burlington, ON