

**To:** The Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Committee  
**From:** Burlington Central 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Steering Committee  
**Re:** Delegation Statement in support of RCC-10-21  
**Date:** July 8, 2021  
**Delegators:** Todd Ford & Terry Ruf

**Statement:**

I want to first thank you all of you for the opportunity to speak in support of the motion outlined in the Recreation, Community and Culture report (RCC-10-21) and introduce our delegation. My name is Todd Ford and I am here with Terry Ruf; the two of us currently share the role of co-chair and are here representing the wishes of the Burlington Central 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Steering Committee. Both Terry and I had the honour of attending Burlington Central during our years as high school students and both Terry and I had the equally significant honour of returning to Central in a different capacity after graduation, Terry as Principal of the school from 2000 – 2004 and I as a teacher who spent my entire 30 year career from 1990 – 2020 in that amazing building.

We know all of you have had the opportunity to read the report and after I finish with my opening statement, both Terry and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the organization, planning and details surrounding this milestone event.

To provide you with a little bit of context about how we got here; our committee of approximately 20 first formed a little over 2 years ago to begin the preliminary work required to flesh out what this centennial celebration might look like. Our initial community meeting led to some great ideas as well as the creation of an electronic database which has already seen the addition of almost 2000 alumni contacts as anticipation for next year's event continues to grow. Through polling of alumni, HDSB staff and members of the Burlington community, we were able to lay out a detailed celebration plan that will ultimately be: fun, safe and inclusive for the entire Central community, both past and present. Another significant factor used in our planning was the example of the highly successful Burlington Central 75th Anniversary Reunion that was held in 1997. This event attracted thousands of Central alumni and former staff members back to the school and to Burlington. Many of the key events in our plans for 2022 are similar to those held in 1997 and are supported by popular demand.

Over the last 18 months we have shared our plan and been engaged with the various stakeholders and partners that will be key in making this event a great success; with the City of Burlington being one of our most important partners. In fact, for just over a year we have continued to work closely with COB staff, in particular Elizabeth Fritshaw and the Festivals and Events Department, to make sure we were aware of the various City of Burlington protocols and procedures, and had all the necessary information we needed to craft a thorough and detailed organizational plan and budget. For our part, we have hopefully provided the transparency the city needed to help move this initiative forward. What is most amazing is that all of this has been carried out during the challenging times of COVID and, though it may have slowed us, we are undaunted and it has not stopped us! In short, we have tried to dot our 'I's' and cross our 'T's' and, as good educators, we have done our homework and we want you to know that this commitment is important to us and has not been entered lightly. We are excited and look forward to working closely with the City of Burlington as we prepare for next year.

As we turn to the report, on behalf of our steering committee, both Terry and I want to commend and thank the City of Burlington staff for their incredible hard work and support. I think the tone of this report captures the significance of this celebration, a celebration that is both literally and figuratively **THE 100 year** event that we hope the Council will recognize it to be. As the first Burlington high school, Central, which has been a Grade 7-12 school since 2001, has seen tens of thousands of Burlington residents pass through its halls over the decades, and this event is a celebration that rightfully encompasses the entire Burlington community. A community steeped in tradition that has continued to grow and evolve during these past 100 years; a community that is primed to celebrate not only the school's centennial, but also the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel.

As I said earlier, our steering committee is pleased with the report and look forward to working closely with COB staff to ensure that our celebration may have the flexibility to use the various city owned venues, as described in the report, for many of our community celebratory events and activities slated for June 2 - 5, 2022.

Thank you for your time and consideration and now Terry and I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.