



City of Hamilton

FACILITY NAMING SUB-COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 21-001

Date: May 27, 2021

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall (CC)

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's Website:

<https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/meetings-and-agendas>

City's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton> or Cable 14

Loren Kolar, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 2604

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- *5.1. Correspondence respecting Naming of Brightside Park, 43 Lloyd Street, Hamilton (PW21028) (Ward 3)

Recommendation: Be received and referred to Item 10.1, respecting the Naming of Brightside Park, 43 Lloyd Street, Hamilton (PW21028) (Ward 3), for consideration.

*5.1.a. John Fioravanti

*5.1.b. Vario Giandomenico

*5.1.c. Brian Morris

*5.1.d. Stephen Lechniak

*5.1.e. Joseph Bartolacci

*5.1.f. Dr. Simon Orpana

*5.1.g. Diane Morelli

*5.1.h. Andrea Michaluk

6. DELEGATION REQUESTS

- *6.1. Delegation Request from John Michaluk respecting the Naming of Brightside Park, 43 Lloyd Street, Hamilton (PW21028) (Ward 3)(for today's meeting)

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Carson, Katie](#); [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: FW: Stadium Precinct Park
Date: May 25, 2021 9:09:26 AM

Magda Green

Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk
City of Hamilton
905 546-2424 ext. 5485
magda.green@hamilton.ca

From: jfioravanti jfioravanti [REDACTED]
Sent: May 24, 2021 2:58 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Stadium Precinct Park

Dear Sir/Madam:

I understand that the site of the Old Dominion Glass is to become a park, currently named the Stadium Precinct Park. I understand that the park will be called The Brightside Park.

Why Brightside?

Brightside was a thriving community back in the 1920's to 1970's, from the CNR tracks to the Steel company of Canada and Wilcox St. to Plymouth Ave. It took the shape of a parallelogram. The area had a lot of history as has been written. The park would commemorate the people who settled there and raised families over the years, from 1920 to 1970. During the late 50's, 60's and 70's many of the homes were being bought up and torn down for industrial parking.

The parents and people in the area worked hard in nearby factories (Stelco, Dofasco. P & G, Dominion Glass, Harvester etc.) in the early years so the young men and women would pursue their education and become successful in the various professions such as doctors, lawyers, teachers, nurses, government officials, company executives, secretaries, business owners etc. Also included in this group were the athletes who made it professionally in many sports. Not excluded, were the housewives who stayed home to cook, clean, did laundry and kept the children safe and happy

The park needs to have information, plaques or notices of why the park is called "The Brightside Park". The younger generation visiting the park should have some idea of the people who lived in Brightside and how they lived. For example, if a skating pad or rink is included, it can be called "Laylaws" (Laidlaw), the skating pond that was frequented near Birmingham St. near the CNR tracks. When the young people were growing up they played sports in any small area that was called a field, which was located between Leeds St. and Birmingham St.

We need to mention why it is called "The Brightside Park". In 1977 a Brightside

Reunion was held with over 1,000 attending. In 1983 another Brightside reunion was held with about 800 to 900 people and a Reunion booklet was produced. It has pictures and stories of Brightside over the years. If the booklet was displayed, i am sure it would give the visitors some insight into what Brightside was about.

Another thing that can be included are street names. One or two of the laneways can be given the old street names from Brightside like (Leeds, Lancaster, Gage, etc.) There needs to be some association with the park and Brightside or it would not mean anything to the younger generation.

These are a few ideas that I have listed. I believe the park and green space for this part of Hamilton is wonderful, and it would complement Tim Horton's Field and Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre as a start.

Thank You for accepting some notes and ideas about "The Brightside Park"

My name is John Fioravanti



I am 85 years old. My wife Mary is 84.

We were both born in Brightside and lived in Hamilton until 3 years ago. We still consider ourselves Hamiltonians and Brightsiders!

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#); [Carson, Katie](#)
Subject: Correspondence FNCS: Giandomenico
Date: May 21, 2021 3:47:03 PM

Magda Green

Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk
City of Hamilton
905 546-2424 ext. 5485
magda.green@hamilton.ca

From: Jeanne Balcers [REDACTED]
Sent: May 21, 2021 3:42 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Reference Brightside Park

My name is Vario Giandomenico. Born in 1940 in the community of Brightside.
I am excited to hear the naming of the park being the "Brightside Park".
And hoping the dream will become a reality.
A special thanks for the efforts of all involved.

Sincerely,
Vario Giandomenico

From: [Pilon, Janet](#)
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; [Carson, Katie](#)
Subject: Correspondence FNSC Morriss
Date: May 21, 2021 2:33:16 PM
Importance: High

From: Brian Morris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: May 21, 2021 2:05 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Brightside Park

I am writing in regard to Brightside Park. I believe it is a wonderful idea to name the park to remember the devoted people of the neighborhood who worked so hard to make Brightside one of the communities most reflective of the culture of Hamilton. Brightsiders were a significant part of the fabric of the city and reflected a multitude of ethnicities ...much like the city itself.

The choices that are made by city officials when they commemorate a place where people gather are important to current and future generations. Brightside is a perfect name.

I'm retired now but I still speak about and am proud of the fact that I spent my very early years in Brightside! Thanks for your consideration.

Yours sincerely...

Brian Morris [REDACTED]

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Kolar, Loren](#); [Carson, Katie](#)
Subject: Correspondence FNCS - Lechniak
Date: May 25, 2021 9:07:49 AM

Magda Green

Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk
City of Hamilton
905 546-2424 ext. 5485
magda.green@hamilton.ca

From: Stephen Lechniak [REDACTED]
Sent: May 23, 2021 7:16 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Brightside Park –Correspondence for Facility Naming Committee/GIC

Brightside Park – Correspondence for Facility Naming Committee/GIC

I am writing with enthusiastic support for naming our newest lower-city green space project, **Brightside Park**. The historical significance of this name goes a long way in recognizing the efforts of many to honour the memory of a vibrant nearby neighbourhood which no longer exists. The name itself will commemorate a hopeful community that endeavoured to afford their children a better future. That same hope will live on in this new parkland, a playground for young and old in a much needed and long overdue area of our beautiful city.

Brightside was a special neighbourhood. It thrived in the shadows of gritty, belching steel mills and yet managed to produce a bevy of outstanding citizens, not the least of which was Quinto Martini, Member of Parliament. From internationally renowned doctors like Dr. Victor Ceciloni to outstanding lawyers like Roger Yachetti and well known sports figures like John Michaluk, Brightside has proven time and again that an enclave of blue-collar, hard-working citizens can rise up and contribute to this city's success. The new Brightside Park can serve its nearby residents with pride in its history and hope for its future. The children of Stiplely neighbourhood will have much finer amenities than the Brightside kids ever did or could have hoped for. With the foresight of the City of Hamilton, this neighbourhood can grow to appreciate the children that came before them. Brightside Park will help them to recognize the well-earned achievements that under-privileged kids from Brightside have brought to Hamilton.

With a multi-use sports field, playgrounds and picnic areas, Brightside Park will not only meet the needs of the existing local community, but will bring pride to a dedicated group of former Brightsiders and their descendants who have lobbied hard for years to earn a place of distinction for their former much-loved neighbourhood. A re-claimed vibrant parkland in the middle of what once was a heavy industrialized area will be the catalyst that binds this neighbourhood together, provides hope and shows the path to success, just like the kids from Brightside learned, many decades ago.

My name is Stephen Lechniak. I curate and maintain a Facebook Page dedicated solely to the memory of Brightside. "Brightside Memories" has 627 followers, dozens of first-hand stories and approximately 1500 photos; most of them user-contributed and many not published anywhere else.

Brightside lives on!

Stephen Lechniak



"**Brightside Memories**" on Facebook



From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Carson, Katie](#); [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: Correspondence FNSC - Bartolacci
Date: May 25, 2021 9:08:42 AM
Attachments: [Homer and Wilson .pdf](#)
[Commerce in Brightside.pdf](#)
[BRIGHTSIDE RECOLLECTIONS.pdf](#)

Magda Green

Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk

City of Hamilton

905 546-2424 ext. 5485

magda.green@hamilton.ca

From: BARTOLACCI [REDACTED]
Sent: May 24, 2021 1:39 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Reference Brightside Park – Correspondence for Facility Naming Committee/GIC

Thank you for the opportunity of addressing the "Brightside Park development. As a 72 year old product of Steeltown, I am often amazed at how often I reflect upon being born and raised in Brightside.

The old original Blue prints of Brightside show it in it's diamond shape, at the foot of the Bay's north east end. However to those of us who grew up there, found our character and voices there, found our grit and determination there, that diamond in the rough held up the City of Hamilton and put it upon our shoulders.

It was a neighbourhood of many firsts;

- it played a key role in the formation of organized labour in Canada
- from the streets of Brightside emerged many professional athletes
- from the doors of Brightside came the workforce that sustained the growth of The Steel Company of Canada, Dominion Foundries and Steel, National Steel Car, International Harvester, Canadian Liquid Air and many others.

From the families of Brightside came the children that populated the Professional ranks; Lawyers, Chartered Accountants, Doctors, Engineers and Educators, all of whom felt and kept a close association to the neighbourhood that propelled them to contribute greatly to the prosperity of Hamilton.

As a society, we are all custodians of History and Brightside, although fallen to the industrialization of the 50's and 60's, holds a history that is cherished in the memories of many generations of Hamiltonians. This history must not be lost to future generations. The City of Hamilton recognizes history through it's revitalization of the James Street North and Bay front developments.

It was with great delight that I learned of the possibility of naming a 10 acre park after the Brightside neighbourhood. It caused me to reflect on how many times over the decades I have driven down to what remains, showing my children where I had grown up, sharing with them the happiness closeness that came from being part of a truly

great community.

Thank you for your consideration. Please find attached three short essays about growing up in Brightside that were written over 50 years of missing home.

Joseph Bartolacci



City Clerk, Hamilton City Hall
71 Main St. West, First Floor
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5
Email: clerk@hamilton.ca

25 May, 2021

RE: Brightside Park – Correspondence for Facility Naming Committee/GIC

Dear Committee Members,

Before the fall of 2016, I had never heard of the Brightside Neighbourhood that once provided homes for hundreds of workers and their families in the heart of Hamilton's industrial zone. Then, in the course of doing research for a graphic history about the 1946 Stelco strike, my colleagues Matt McInnes, Rob Kristofferson and I interviewed Lino Trigatti, a retired second-generation blacksmith who worked his whole adult life at Stelco. Lino's story was both fascinating and emblematic of the experiences of a generation of workers whose families had immigrated from southern and Eastern Europe, before and after World War Two, seeking employment and a better life. Lino's father was from Italy, and brought his family to Hamilton in the early 1930s. Lino was about two years old when he moved to Brightside, which provided an important landing zone for many immigrant workers and their families. The neighbourhood contained many rooming houses where a worker could live while he saved enough money to bring his family from overseas. It was also the site of a lively culture of bootleggers, musicians, gamblers, shopkeepers, urban farmers and amateur athletes.

Lino grew up in Brightside. His played in the fields and the dump that flanked his neighbourhood. He and his friends explored the surrounding inlets on rafts made from streetcar ties, crafts that they hid in the sewer intake pipes. They found fun and adventure in a landscape that to many outsiders seemed uninhabitable. Lino's first job was at Dominion Glass. During the shortage of workers caused by World War Two, he lied about his age and was recruited before finishing high school to help make lids for glass jars. After a stint at Dominion, he followed his father's profession and became a blacksmith at Stelco. He helped fashion the spikes that were used to plot the trans-Canada highway. Lino has lived over ninety years as a Brightsider. He has seen the transformation of the landscape as the inlets were filled in with slag, and as the surrounding fields, trees and wetlands were claimed by heavy industry. He participated in the historic strikes of the summer of 1946 and remains a dedicated member of USW Local 1005. He witnessed the slow, steady dismantling of Brightside from 1950 – 1970, as houses and businesses were bought up, one by one, and as families moved away to be replaced by transient boarders to whom Stelco rented the houses before they were torn down for ever.

From the second floor of Lino's house, one has a view of the Industrial Parkway Overpass that cuts through where the Brightside Hotel once stood. The hotel's late-night drunken shenanigans have been replaced by a different sound: the passing cars and trucks that have rattled Lino's windows for over fifty years. Mr. Trigatti is the last Brightsider to still inhabit what is left of the old neighbourhood. The hydro corridor that runs behind his house still has a couple fruit trees that speak to the creative ways Brightsiders turned their neighbourhood into a liveable, flourishing community based on principles of self-reliance and mutual support.

Brightside was built on land that Hamilton's elite had once considered using for a gentleman's club. The willow trees and marshlands of Huckleberry Point made it a popular, picturesque spot for hunting and fishing. Long before being colonized by Europeans, an Indigenous peoples called the Attawandaron were the caretakers of the bay front land, which was recognized as a rich and important resource—too important, in fact, to be claimed by any one group. The Attawandaron, or "Neutral Nation" as they were called by settlers, treated the bay as an irreplaceable resource to be shared by all in a spirit of gratitude and humility. When settler culture imposed its ideas of private property on the area, it simultaneously devalued the land, calling it "worthless" and in need of industrial investment to render it "productive." The Attawandaron narrative of sharing and respect was replaced with an ideology of productivity that recognized value only in the form of monetary profits. In the name of "progress," this narrative has transformed the bay front into the polluted, devastated industrial landscape we know today.

Brightside emerged and all but disappeared in the midst of this transformation, and Brightsiders witnessed it happening. In a landscape designed by city elites to extract profits from workers and the environment, Brightsiders managed to create a liveable and flourishing space of culture and refuge. Estranged from their communities and relatives overseas, employed at factories that cared minimally for their well-being and safety, they built homes and relationships that resisted the dehumanizing tendencies of Hamilton's industrial heyday. The majority of Brightside's homes and businesses were bulldozed over half a century ago, but the relationships forged there remain. My colleagues and I realized this when we helped start the Brightside Neighbourhood Project in 2016, and were able to participate in lively community memory and mapping sessions. These sessions helped reconstruct the neighbourhood and record some of the stories and culture of Brightside, but what they most strongly impressed upon me was the way the fabric of relationships forged in Brightside, which had remained dormant for so long, could suddenly spring back into life. As friends and neighbours were reunited, some of whom had not seen each other in several decades, the spirit of Brightside emerged at our lively meetings.

There is a special magic that was fostered in Brightside, and it still lives in the memories and hearts of Brightsiders. It was an ordinary magic of extraordinary people, helping each other survive and flourish under challenging circumstances

and in difficult environments. It seems fitting to me to name a park after this magic. Though the site is not *in* Brightside, many Brightsiders, such as Lino Trigatti, had connections to Dominion Glass. The factory was part of the industrial landscape that framed the Brightside neighbourhood.

I am wary, however, that in our enthusiasm to celebrate Hamilton workers' culture—so well illustrated by the people and stories of Brightside—we might overlook the contemporary struggles of Hamiltonians. Brightside was a neighbourhood of about 260 homes that was levelled in service of industrial infrastructure. A project of similar dimensions, and even greater potential for the displacement of Hamilton's working-class people, is currently underway with the light rail transit plan (LRT). A 2019 survey conducted by the King Street Tenants United advocacy group estimates that properties expropriated by the City of Hamilton and Metrolinx in service of the proposed LRT line includes 72 businesses, 12 homeowner households and 168 tenant households. The same group counts 168 tenant households that have been directly displaced due the LRT project, and we can predict many more will be pushed out of their neighbourhoods due to transit-induced gentrification. At a time when severe housing shortages and increased market pressure have pushed rents and mortgages out of reach of many downtown residents, Hamilton has pursued the LRT project in such a way as to all but guarantee that many of the people living along the King Street corridor—the most concentrated swath of rental properties in the city—will be forced out of their homes and communities. No funds or planning were put into building social housing units prior to the start of the LRT construction to accommodate displaced tenants. Those forced out of their homes were given, in the best circumstances, a one-year subsidy to help cover the cost of their increased rents, but this subsidy has now expired.

When I listen to proponents of the LRT, I often hear the same disregard for workers' culture and community fabric that accompanied the dismantling of the Brightside neighbourhood and the transformation of Huckleberry Point into one of the most polluted sites in the Great Lakes. Much like north end neighbourhoods such as Brightside were described as "blighted" in post-war redevelopment plans, the east end of Hamilton is currently disparaged as "underdeveloped," "blighted" and "run down," and LRT is offered as a fix-all solution that will attract development and resources. Behind these claims is blindness to the relationships and cultures that truly make Hamilton unique and liveable. If the story of Brightside can help us here, it is in reinvigorating our understanding of wealth and community. Rather than interiorizing the stigma that outsiders might like to level at Hamilton, as being "uncultured," "poor," "run-down" and "polluted," we might learn to take pride in putting the needs of people and communities over the imperatives of money and investors. In the 20th century, Brightsiders stood up to industrialists and city elites in their struggles for the right to have a decent home, a decent wage, paid vacations and safe working conditions. In the 21st century, these same struggles continue, but the area has shifted: to the struggles of workers on the shop floor have been added the struggles of tenants organizing their buildings to resist landlords and governments who would let them be

displaced.

In our post-industrial milieu, rarely are the class divides revealed with such clarity as the LRT debate offers. The “pro” side champions an ideology of progress and a model of belonging organized around upscale coffee shops and technological futurism: a sleek and environmentally friendly electric railway cruising down a reinvigorated King Street corridor that has been efficiently stripped of its working-class, affordable housing. We could call this faction an emergent “creative class,” though this term is more descriptive and aspirational than sociological, since many of this group struggle with precarity and displacement themselves. The anti-LRT camp is composed of two opposing factions: the established suburban “middle-class” who want to choke downtown of any resources, and the tenants and activist who have realized that the LRT is designed to be a vehicle of gentrification and displacement. If the proposed Brightside Park is to be more than a nostalgic landmark that covers over an ongoing disregard for the material realities of immigrants and working people, we need to pay careful attention to the lessons of the past, and to stop sacrificing neighbourhoods and communities on the altars of “progress” and “development.” This means building ample affordable social housing, instituting meaningful rent control, promoting co-ops and community land trusts that can curb real estate speculation, and protecting existing local businesses and cultures rather than implementing infrastructures that will largely benefit only a new group and class of people.

If we don’t do this, fifty years from now we might well be naming a new, East-end Park in memory of Hamilton’s King Street Corridor, and the resilient immigrant and worker neighbourhoods that it once housed.

Sincerely,



Dr. Simon Orpana



From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Carson, Katie](#); [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: FW: Brightside Park-Correspondence for facility naming committee
Date: May 26, 2021 10:45:19 AM

Magda Green

Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk
City of Hamilton
905 546-2424 ext. 5485
magda.green@hamilton.ca

From: Diane Morelli <[REDACTED]>
Sent: May 26, 2021 10:40 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Brightside Park-Correspondence for facility naming committee

I'd like to extend sincere thanks to Councillor Nrinder Nann and Daniela Giulietti her executive assistant for their efforts to name the new greenspace to be located on the former Glassworks property to be named **Brightside Park.**

I was fortunate to be born and raised in that sector of the north end of Hamilton on Gage Ave N. It was adjacent to several industries; mainly Stelco, Arcelor Mital, International Harvester, Proctor and Gamble and right in the midst of the residential area Homer and Wilson. The families living there until 1967, when their homes were expropriated, worked in those nearby factories. Most wage earners did not drive in the early 1920s so they walked or biked to work. The families of these workers were neighbors as well as friends. It was this friendship that bound us together at school, church and free time. Their homes were clean and well maintained with vegetable and flower gardens. They were hard working members of the community and helped build this country.

Help us to pay tribute to them for raising the next generation of Hamiltonians and those afar.

We, the children of these Brightsiders, are now seniors but still socialize with each other and reminisce about our many connections over the years ...school, religion. graduations, marriages and then our children's births. Some of us have met several times with Simon Orpana, Nancy Buchier, and Matt McGuinness to bring to light our unique experiences on tape and video. We have earned some recognition in Nancy Bouchier and Ken Cruikshank's book "People on the Bay"

and "Reclaiming Hamilton" by Paul Weinberg.

In conclusion, I'm pleased to support the naming of Hamilton's newest park-
Brightside Park.

Regards

Diane Adoranti Morelli

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
To: [Carson, Katie](#); [Kolar, Loren](#)
Subject: FW: Brightside Park – Correspondence for Facility Naming Committee/GIC
Date: May 26, 2021 3:29:09 PM

Magda Green

Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk
City of Hamilton
905 546-2424 ext. 5485
magda.green@hamilton.ca

From: Andrea [REDACTED]
Sent: May 26, 2021 3:27 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Brightside Park – Correspondence for Facility Naming Committee/GIC

It's about time!!

This is a significant part of Hamilton's history that deserves your recognition and devotion. Honouring all of the families that 'grew' out of this paved over piece of heaven at the whims of greedy politicians and developers.

Do right by them and make this spectacular.

This is your moment, your shining opportunity to bring back some of the joy and the soul of Brightside that lives in the hearts of so many. To allow the land to heal and to flourish once again into a mighty green space full of wonder and vibrancy that will delight for generations to come.

andrea michaluk

"The trouble is you think you have time" - Buddha

--

sent from my iPoof

From: [Paparella, Stephanie](#)
To: [Kolar, Loren](#)
Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; [Vernem, Christine](#)
Subject: RE: Form submission from: Request to Speak to Committee of Council Form
Date: May 25, 2021 9:14:04 AM

==Committee Requested==
Committee: General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: John Michaluk

Name of Organization: - -

Contact Number: [REDACTED]

Email Address: michaluk@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

[REDACTED]

Reason(s) for delegation request: Brightside Park Facility Naming

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

Subject: Brightside Park - Facility Naming Sub-Committee - Presentation - 2:30pm, Thursday May 27th, 2021

... Madam Chairperson, and members of the Facility Naming Sub - Committee:

... thank you for this opportunity to meet with you! ...

... this is Thursday, May 27th, 2021 ... my name is John Michaluk, I was born on Brightside in 1942 ... I am a first generation Canadian, my parents Jennie and Stefan Michaluk were Ukrainians and as a child, that was the language spoken in our home at 48 Lancaster Street, Hamilton, ON ...

... (PEACE - LOVE signs!) ... thanks to the City, the deaf and hard of hearing are able to access on YouTube the information presented here this afternoon ...

... on Lancaster Street, in Brightside, our next door neighbours on both sides were Italian ... two doors down was my best friend of 78 years, John Brodnicki - his family was Polish ... across the street, our neighbours came from England ...

... five homes, four languages, fourteen children, three different religious beliefs, significant cultural differences, and a delightful variety of world foods! ...

... we were multicultural before multicultural was a word - or a government program! ...

... we were ethnic, ethical, and guided by a strong work ethic ...

... we highly valued - family, close friends, trust, and caring for each other ...

... none of our parents finished high school, most never completed grade school ...

... but all could walk to work at the steel mills, the chemical company, tractor company, tire company, the toothpaste and detergent company, and the pottery that made the dishes and cups we used at dinner - or, whose rejects were lovingly gifted to our mother on her birthday! ...

... although not formally schooled our parents learned the language, and how to go along to get along, on both the factory floor and the street - but they knew encouraging us kids to continue our schooling and working hard would pay off ...

... as kids, we played on the streets, at the City dump, along the railway and street car tracks, and in the winter we spent every weekend on the frozen pond of a company whose waste water flowed into it - one end never froze because of the toxic chemicals, the acids and oily lubricants ... the smallest kid always had to retrieve the puck if it got too close to the open water! ...

... any company - whether it makes steel, produces nuclear power, or factory-farmed chickens - can be profitable if it doesn't have to account for the cost of the waste products it produces! ...

... we played outside every day until the street lights came on and it was time to go home - 5pm in the winter but after 9pm around this time of year ... every vacant lot was a field of dreams or, a vegetable plot (now known as a "community garden"!) ... the older kids looked after the younger ones and every mother kept an eye on every other mother's kids ...

... leaving the neighbourhood to attend high school opened our world ... we discovered City parks - Eastwood, Scott's, Gage, Woodlands! ... these were amazing places - clean, green, large, full of life, excitement, other kids, and facilities! ... we never knew how these places got their names but we knew they were special and different from Brightside ... nobody had a car - we walked for miles, rode our bikes, maybe sometimes took a bus to get there ...

... we knew parks were a special place! ... a place to meet, hang out, learn, play sports, and be happy ...

... in our teens, during the 1950's life was good ... most of us had part time jobs while going to school - delivering the newspaper, working at the drugstore, the grocery store, ice cream shop, the bowling alley ...

... or, in the summertime, working on farms picking fruit for the farmer who at 6am, stopped on our street to pick up a dozen or so teenagers, load them onto the back of an old farm truck with wooden side wall racks, and with us standing up in the back, he drove us to a farm on Nash Road or Mount Albion Road to pick the crop ...

... now, with government subsidies, "pickers" get flown in from the Caribbean or Latin America! ...

... in addition to school and part-time work many of us - boys and girls - played sports year round in the High School and/or City leagues ...

... family, friends, school, work, sports - from the late 1930's until the late '60's - life was good on Brightside! ...

... everybody worked hard, did their best to prosper and to stay healthy and look out for each other! ...

... we were proud to be Hamiltonians in the "Ambitious City" ...

... .but, like the turkey who lived indoors, sheltered from the weather, in a huge barn, with access to clean water, and good food, until just a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving Day, for us, everything was about to come to an end! ...

... by the 1960's for the 1000 or so Brightsiders, now living in fewer than 260 homes and businesses, mostly built with their own hands, life was about to horribly change ...

... behind closed doors, decisions were being made by "the big shots" that would inextricably alter Brightside for ever! ...

... the planners, elected City Councillors, their consultants, academics, unwitting dupes, and willing scyphants, together with steel company executives, and local profiteers decided the area needed:

- bigger parking lots
- wider roadways and,
- an overpass to ensure unencumbered and faster access to and from the steel mill! ...

... and so, the City and the steel company and its agents began, quietly at first, to buy up homes and businesses, sometimes renting them out but, mostly bulldozing them and covering the now empty lots over with crushed slag, a stone-like, by-product produced in the blast furnaces only a couple of hundred metres away ... the flattened lots were a convenient dumping ground for slag ...

... by around 1968, the City and the industrialists had slowly but steadily bulldozed all but 24 of the homes and businesses and covered the space with slag which today still envelopes, and defines the formerly green - now drab, grey-brown, landscape ... Brightside, once touted as a model neighbourhood, had been decapitated ...

... long-time neighbours, some close friends for generations, and several extended families who lived within walking distance, moved to homes scattered throughout the City ...

... some of the elderly who had lived in the self-contained, small community all their lives and had only known the familiar streets, corner grocery stores, and other service providers within Brightside, were dispersed and forced to establish new lives in unfamiliar neighbourhoods ...

... comfort, trust, familiarity, and respect evaporated to be replaced by a sense of betrayal ... some, never adjusted to the disruption of their lives ...

... but, there is an old saying - "the sun never shines on the same dog's tail every day!" ... soon after the homes were destroyed and the people displaced:

- the economies of the steel, rubber, soap, chemical, and farm implement industries all changed for the worst ...
- comparative advantages dissipated, factors of production were altered, and trade alliances were shattered ...
- our City leaders were thinking locally when the world was being altered globally ...
- soon, business decided Hamilton wasn't the profit haven it had been ...
- they all moved out of town ...
- leaving the City with a double whammy - significantly decreased property tax revenue and increased expenses to clean up their environmental mess !...

... since then, the parking lots have always sat empty of cars ... the widened roadways have never carried vehicles at the capacity envisioned, and the overpass - the bridge to nowhere - stands prominently like the spine of some ancient reptile ... a harsh-looking, ugly monument to the folly of short sightedness and flawed decision making! ...

... btw, there's another old saying, "a good deal has a thousand fathers, and a bad deal is an orphan" ...

... you can't find anyone who takes credit for the design and build of Industrial Drive, the plethora of parking lots, the Overpass to nowhere, and the flattening of more than 200+ homes and businesses ...

... not surprisingly, the project never had a name or, an author of the plan and nobody has ever proudly taken claim or credit for the scheme! ...

... somehow, through all of this, and for fifty years since the bulldozers plowed our neighbourhood under, a now aging band of Brightsiders, although scattered throughout the land, has ALWAYS - ALWAYS remained together as close friends ...

... a considerable level of trust and caring about each other develops when you've known someone for over 75 years, or bowled with them for over 50 years in the Brightside Bowling League! ...

... those of us who were born and raised on Brightside are a vanishing species ... HEAR OUR VOICE

... we speak from the heart ... we're neck deep and heartfelt in our beliefs when it comes to Brightside ...

... for decades, we've been advocating in our City and elsewhere for recognition of our neighbourhood's history, heritage, and way of life ...

... for decades, we've been telling our story about hard working, persevering immigrant parents, sacrificing to ensure their children had opportunities ...

... help us to celebrate, venerate, and commemorate an important neighbourhood in our City ...

... help our City's children, and our City's children's children, the young people, the immigrants, and long-time Hamiltonians, to remember Brightside and its people ...

... more importantly, give the children and the youth of our City a place to play, to learn, to build strong, healthy bodies, and minds ... and to make lifelong friends! ...

... repurpose the Glass Works property into the very best, highly functional, multi-dimensional, totally accessible, and beautiful Park, Canada has ever known ...

... let the Park be a jewel in our City - let it stand beside the other parks of Hamilton in the wonderful tradition of being a meeting place, a storytelling haven, and a timeless memory maker for generation after generation to come ... HEAR OUR VOICE ...

... what better name for a Park that serves all peoples, all dreams, all hopes, and all aspirations? ...

... what better name for a Park that embodies the spirit of new beginnings? ...

... what better name for a Park that might fly the flags of all countries from which people come to start anew?

... BRIGHTSIDE PARK - what better name to inspire the people of our "Distinguished City?"...

... and finally, now that there is Brightside Park, let's remember that right now, there is still a place, a neighbourhood, a space known as BRIGHTSIDE ... with real homes, real people, real history ... in a sense, it's the ancestral home of Brightsiders ...

... rightfully, in every written communique emanating from City Hall, recognition is given to the ancestral homes of peoples who formerly made the City Hall area their home ...

... so too, should the still remaining lands of Brightside be honoured and remembered in some way! ...

... the people living there today are proud, caring, hardworking Hamiltonians, with pride of place ...

... it's time for a renaissance to begin there ...

... and a time to end the "lesser than" treatment! ...

... Brightside deserves extra care to ensure sidewalks, roadways and all City services are delivered there with the highest quality, quantity, and timeliness ...

... maybe, get out the paint, add murals, plant some greenery – and why aren't there flower beds in our City below Barton Street? ...

... and maybe Burlington Street between Wilcox and Gage Ave should be renamed Brightside Way ... let's remember, Tesla never lived on Burlington Street, and the City named part of the street after him and a car! - is there another street in the City named after an automobile? ... other than Plymouth Street in Brightside, long ago buried by the bulldozers? ...

... and neighbourhood signs dot the City, announcing important neighbourhoods - Durand, Corktown, Crown Point, the North End - Brightside has earned its right to stand with other important Hamilton neighbourhoods with a sign designating its significance ...

... and maybe, an historical marker should be placed, in a small parkette within Brightside itself, to recognize the significance of the workers from Brightside who for decades were the backbone of the City's factories ...

... and in our City, initiatives to preserve historical homes such as Whitehearn, Westfield Village, Dundurn, Griffin House, and others have always been important undertakings ... maybe some worker's homes in Brightside should be protected, preserved, and designated historical ... they're the last, believe it or not, of a once leading edge, model community in our City ...

... and lastly, maybe before it's too late, digital sound and visual records might be created to preserve Brightside's voices, images, history, and contribution to the City ...

... a part of the soul and heart of Hamilton was born on Brightside ... now, thanks to all of you on the Facility Naming Sub-Committee, that spirit will live on for generations at BRIGHTSIDE PARK! ... HEAR OUR VOICE!

...

... if you have questions, I would be pleased, through the Chair, to respond ...

... if not, thank you for providing this opportunity to meet with you to share a part of our City's mostly unknown past ...

... hopefully some of the information provided will be of assistance and support your reasons for choosing the Park's name? ...

... you have a chance to make an historically profound decision ...

... one that will be remembered for generations ...

... you are the fortunate people who can choose the name of our neighbourhood for a beautiful, breakthrough, wonderful place named BRIGHTSIDE PARK ...

... we're grateful and appreciative of your consideration ... thank you! ...