



CITY OF HAMILTON
HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES DEPARTMENT
Recreation Division
and
Children’s and Community Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Facility Naming Sub-Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	May 11, 2023
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Renaming of Ryerson Recreation Centre to Kanétskare Recreation Centre (HSC23031) (Ward 1) (Outstanding Business List Item)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Ward 1
PREPARED BY:	Dawn Walton (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4755 Jennifer DiDomenico (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5596 Shelly Hill (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4081
SUBMITTED BY:	Chris Herstek Director, Recreation Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Chase Director, Children’s and Community Services Division Healthy and Safe Communities Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Ryerson Recreation Centre at 251 Duke Street be renamed “Kanétskare” (pronounced Ga-nét-sga-re, a Mohawk term meaning Bay or Inlet) Recreation Centre as it meets the guidelines as set out in Section 4(b)(i) of the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy;
- (b) That a budget of \$20 K funded from the City’s Tax Stabilization Reserve, (110046) be established for costs associated with the removal, repair, preparation and installation of new facility signage at the 251 Duke Street site;

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

- (c) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents, with such terms and conditions in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; and,
- (d) That the renaming of Ryerson Recreation Centre to Kanétskare Recreation Centre be considered complete and removed from the Facility Naming Sub Committee Outstanding Business List.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There is growing national and local concern about monuments and landmarks and representation of historic and cultural spaces that are not inclusive of Indigenous past and present, including the history of colonialism and residential schools.

At the July 9, 2021 meeting of City Council, staff were directed to “work in tandem with the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) in the renaming of the Ryerson elementary school/municipal recreation centre” and report back to the Facilities Naming Sub-Committee.

HWDSB staff, through consultation, developed and followed an Indigenous-led process to rename the school as detailed in their Executive Report to Standing Committee of June 6, 2022 (attached as Appendix “A” to Report HSC23031). As part of this process, Healthy and Safe Communities staff were actively engaged in January 2022 to participate in an Indigenous-led Naming Circle to review and rename Ryerson Elementary School.

The consensus submission by the Naming Circle for Ryerson Elementary School of Kanétskare, was approved by HWDSB and implemented at the school site between June-September 2022.

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement from the Facility Naming Sub-Committee to extend the name Kanétskare to the co-located municipal recreation centre.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The requested budget of \$20 K to be funded from the Tax Stabilization Reserve (110046) is required for the development and installation of facility signage including the removal of the existing exterior signage and any required fascia repair associated with the removal.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: Legal Services will assist with the preparation of any required agreement(s) and ancillary documents impacted by the facility name change in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Hamilton City Council committed to having “a trusting relationship with Indigenous communities where we communicate and work together appropriately to address the unique needs and issues of Indigenous people” through the adoption of the Urban Indigenous Strategy in July 2019 and the endorsement of the Urban Indigenous Strategy Implementation Plan on February 4, 2021.

At the June 6, 2021 meeting of the HWDSB the following motion was unanimously passed: “That in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, that an Indigenous process that is both locally relevant and responsive be struck to rename Ryerson Elementary school, through ethical engagement and in consultation with local Indigenous communities and key beneficiaries and stakeholders.” Subsequently, at the July 9, 2021 meeting of City Council, staff were directed to “work in tandem with the HWDSB in the renaming of the elementary school/municipal recreation centre.”

The Honouring our Roots: Creating Space for Indigenous Voices report by First Peoples Group co-developed through a listening process with Indigenous peoples was approved as supplementary to the Urban Indigenous Strategy as part of the Landmarks and Monuments Review (HSC21025(a)/PED21149(a)/PW21038(a)). The Honouring our Roots report was prepared as a guide to identify and address priority sites, not inclusive of Indigenous past and present including the history of colonialism, and residential schools. Through the work of the Circle of Experts, First Peoples Group, and staff, the Ryerson Recreation Centre was identified as a priority site requiring additional context to provide Indigenous history and identified that a process for the renaming of the community centre was already underway.

At the June 13, 2022 HWDSB meeting, the name Kanétskare, was unanimously approved as the new name for the Elementary School located at 222 Robinson Street.

There were some delays experienced in bringing the report forward to Facility Naming Sub-Committee which were compounded in part by the municipal election blackout period, the inauguration of Council and assignment to associated committees as well as staff resource capacity concerns in early 2023.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (2015), Council endorsed the Urban Indigenous Strategy through Report HSC19030 in June 2019 which identified actions to strengthen the City's relationship with the Indigenous community. The recommendations in Report HSC23031 directly relate to the implementation of the actions identified in the Urban Indigenous Strategy.

This naming request meets the required guidelines as set out in Section 4(b)(i) of the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy and as detailed in the Analysis and Rationale for Recommendation section of this report.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board staff responsible for the process undertaken for the renaming of the Kanétskare Elementary School were consulted during the preparation of the report and supportive of the recommendation of a shared name for the co-located facility.

Public Works, Facilities Operation and Maintenance staff were engaged to provide anticipated cost estimates for the proposed work to replace the facility signage at the site.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Honouring our Roots: Creating Space for Indigenous Voices was prepared as a guide to identify and address priority sites, not inclusive of Indigenous past and present including the history of colonialism, and residential schools. In keeping with the Core Themes of the report, the approach to adopt the consensus submission by the Naming Circle for Kanétskare Elementary School aligns with the following themes:

Connection to the Land

- The name Kanétskare a Mohawk term meaning "Bay or Inlet" emphasizes the interconnectedness of the land and elements to the community rather than reinforcing a political or individual narrative.

Relationships and Reciprocity

- Consideration, respect and reciprocity for the engagement conducted by the Naming Circle for the Elementary School by honouring and adopting the consensus submission for the co-located site.

The City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy has the following property listing categories from which proposed names for municipal properties and buildings may be selected: geographic, historic, and prominent individuals/ organizations (listed in priority order). In general, names of municipal property and buildings should give a sense of place, continuity, and belonging. Furthermore, adopting the name Kanétskare for the Centre would support the past practice of adopting shared names for co-located sites.

Section 4(b)(i) of the policy details the 'Geographic' category. It includes, in part, eligibility for names having a geographic affiliation which may include, but is not limited to:

- Proximity to a recognizable facility or area

The recreation centre is located not far from the Bayfront area. Therefore, the proposed naming meets the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

The alternative to conduct a separate City of Hamilton initiated renaming process for the Recreation Centre may be considered. Staff do not recommend this alternative as consultation with local indigenous communities, key beneficiaries and stakeholders has been completed with respect to the site. Consistent with the majority of attached or joint City of Hamilton/HWDSB facilities, a single name has traditionally been used to identify both the school and municipal recreation centre.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Built Environment and Infrastructure

Hamilton is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

Culture and Diversity

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" to Report HSC23031	HWDSB Standing Committee Agenda, June 6, 2022 – Item 5. Renaming of Ryerson Elementary
Appendix "B" to Report HSC23031:	Location Map of Proposed Kanétskare Recreation Centre