

**From:** Dent, Diane  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2024 11:02 AM  
**To:** [cityclerks@hamilton.ca](mailto:cityclerks@hamilton.ca)  
**Cc:** Gauthier, Matt <[Matt.Gauthier@hamilton.ca](mailto:Matt.Gauthier@hamilton.ca)>  
**Subject:** Durand Hall at St Marks

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments

Dear Members of Hamilton City Council,

I am writing to you to ask -- Please support Durand Hall at St Marks as the new name --NOT -  
- Magnolia.

The renaming of St Marks should be transparent. I do not do facebook , thus I was not aware of the renaming process. Durand and citizens of Hamilton should have a say.

- Is Engage Hamilton and is the renaming committee following the "Policy Statement of Intent"? What about transparency? --the aim of this new council! Has there been a Town Hall meeting?
- There is nothing geographically or historically significant for Magnolia Hall. Magnolias can be found throughout southern Ontario, brought here through imported nursery stock.

Please remember ---

The Durand Neighbourhood Association was founded in September 1972, when residents came together to bring stability to their neighbourhood.

**The Durand Neighbourhood Association, recently celebrated 50 years of uninterrupted community service.**

The Durand Neighbourhood has been involved in urban city planning, revitalization of a decaying downtown, control of development and demolition, support of innovative housing, and preservation of heritage sites such as the Carnegie Library now the Unified family Court and the Bank of Montreal Building adaptive reuse - to name a few. Members' meetings are held regularly with input from all citizens..That is citizens working together for the betterment of the community.

We saved Central Public School from demolition. It is now thriving.

We went to the OMB to have a neighbourhood park.

Former councillors Robert Morrow, William McCulloch, Vince Agro, Reg Wheeler, Dennis Carson, Geraldine Copps, Chad Collins and others encouraged public participation in municipal decision-making

As for St Mark's, if it were not for former Mayor Bob Morrow, Aldermen Agro, McCulloch, LACAC, Heritage Hamilton Foundation and the Durand Neighbourhood Association, there would not have been this new community /event space and public garden.

Mayor Bob Morrow, Councillor of Ward 2 Willim McCulloch and I met with Canon Peter Moore to ensure the preservation of St Marks.

Since the early 1990s, through decades of former and current Durand Neighbourhood Association Board Members, engaged Duranders and other municipal leaders including Andrea Horwath, Ron Corsini, Bob Bratina, Fred Eisenberger Jason Farr, Culture & Tourism Staff, Anna Bradford, Ian Kerr Wilson and Heritage Planner Nina Chapple, has been unwavering.

As the founder of the Durand Neighbourhood Association in 1972 and as a citizen of the City of Hamilton, I am disappointed, saddened, astonished, flabbergasted that a name such as Magnolia would ever have been considered by any member of Hamilton City Council or staff.

St Marks will be a community space, a green space, a park for this downtown densely populated neighbourhood.

Magnolias will provide neither shade nor respect for our culture or our past.

Other trees that are **native** to this area, when planted, would be welcomed by visitors at Durand Hall at St Marks, at St Mark's Park in Durand.

The traditional practice of naming municipal property, buildings, and features after significant geographical or historical elements is recognizing and paying tribute to our past.

In my opinion, Magnolia would obliterate our past..

Please do not ignore Hamilton's past.

Thank you for the opportunity to send this letter and possibly to speak tomorrow at your 9:30am meeting.

Respectfully,

Diane

-----

Dr Diane Gower Dent