

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** NO TO MAGNOLIA renaming

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**From:** Bob Maton

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 11:20 AM

**To:** Gauthier, Matt <[Matt.Gauthier@hamilton.ca](mailto:Matt.Gauthier@hamilton.ca)>; McRae, Angela <[Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca](mailto:Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca)>

**Cc:** Ward 8 Office <[ward8@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward8@hamilton.ca)>; Jackson, Tom <[Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca)>; Wilson, Maureen <[Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca)>; Beattie, Jeff <[Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca](mailto:Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca)>; Ward 4 <[ward4@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward4@hamilton.ca)>; Clark, Brad <[Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca)>; Tadeson, Mark <[Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca)>; Ward 12 Office <[ward12@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward12@hamilton.ca)>; Ward 13 <[ward13@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward13@hamilton.ca)>; Spadafora, Mike <[Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca](mailto:Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca)>; McMeekin, Ted <[Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca](mailto:Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca)>; Office of the Mayor <[Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca)>

**Subject:** NO TO MAGNOLIA renaming

Good morning Mayor Horvath, Councillors and City Staff:

**I write in support of the renaming of St Mark's to "Durand Hall at St Mark's". A definite NO to "Magnolia Hall".**

James Durand, interred in St. John's Churchyard in Ancaster Village and remembered in the name of the neighbourhood where St Mark's is preserved, was a great reformer, friend and supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie, William Notman, and Roger Gurlay, reformers all. He was a member of the Upper Canada Legislature in the early 1800s where he brought in **The Common Schools Act**, legislation extending publicly funded education to people in poverty, providing them an opportunity to improve not only their own lives but their communities as well. He was a powerful promoter of civil liberties in opposition to the authoritarian Family Compact. He owned the land between Main and King Streets extending east of John Street. When he sold that land to George Hamilton, he worked successfully as Hamilton's agent to promote these lands as the civic centre of the entire Region. His reform work was carried on by his sons Charles and James, Jr.

**Let us not forget those who fought for progress and the benefits that we now enjoy as a society!**

Thank you and best wishes,

Bob Maton, PhD