



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Tourism and Culture Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Facilities Naming Sub-Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	April 19, 2024
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Re-naming of the former St. Mark's Church (PED24076) (Ward 2)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	Ward 2
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Carolyn Samko (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2509
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Debra Seabrook Acting Director, Tourism and Culture Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### RECOMMENDATION

That the 'St. Mark's Church' located at 115 Hunter Street West, Hamilton be renamed 'Magnolia Hall'.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The building formally known as St. Mark's Church has undergone a multi-year restoration and will reopen in the fall of 2024 as a cultural programming space run by the City of Hamilton's Tourism and Culture Division. Since the building has been de-sanctified as per Anglican protocol, a new name is required to reflect its new use.

In February 2024 the Tourism and Culture Division engaged in public consultation through Engage Hamilton inviting the public to provide feedback on a new name. Nature inspired themes were recommended to the public in keeping with the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy (FN-2015-001) Section 4 (a) *to give a sense of place, continuity, belonging, and celebrate the uniqueness and distinguishing characteristics of Hamilton* and adhere to many of the geographic priorities listed under Section 4 (b)(i).

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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.

From that consultation the proposed name 'Magnolia Hall' was selected to celebrate the Magnolia tree which is popularly planted within the Durand neighbourhood. One species is native to Ontario, with many North American species historically grown in Hamilton, especially in older neighbourhoods. To support the new name a selection of magnolia varieties will be planted in the garden surrounding the building, adding beauty and colour to the landscape.

The original Municipal Heritage designation plaque pertaining to the St. Mark's Church heritage designation will be displayed inside the front foyer along with an interpretive panel.

### **Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3**

### **FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: None

Staffing: None

Legal: None

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

St. Mark's Church is a municipally designated heritage building built in 1877 and located at 115 Hunter Street West behind Hamilton's City Hall. The church was originally owned by the Anglican Diocese who later sold it to the City of Hamilton in the 1990s. The building stayed empty until 2011 when stabilization and planning for an adaptive re-use began. Led by the Tourism and Culture Division, restoration was completed in early 2024. The new facility will reopen in fall 2024 as a community cultural programming space. A public consultation to inform the choice of a new name was undertaken in February of 2024. See Appendix "A" to Report PED24076 for results of the community consultation.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

Not Applicable.

### **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Staff have discussed the renaming with the Ward 2 Councillor and a Public consultation was undertaken through Engage Hamilton. See Appendix "A" to Report PED24076. The Engage Hamilton consultation was advertised by social media, in the Spectator and through staff recommendations and sharing. It drew 1.64K views and 617 participants.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

St. Mark's Church was originally built as an Anglican church and later sold to the City of Hamilton in 1992. Use of the site will reflect a wide range of programming activities and public use. Renaming the facility is in alignment with the City of Hamilton Municipal Property and Building Naming Policy naming criteria and guidelines and is part of the effort to make the space more inclusive. Significant site heritage and its historic name will be acknowledged within the facility through an interpretive panel and the original Municipal Heritage designation plaque.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

Committee has the option to reject the proposed name and retain the original building name of St. Mark's.

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Appendix "A" to Report PED24076 – Engage Hamilton Community Consultation Results