

May 8, 2018

Daniel Lavigne  
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Richmond Hill, Ontario L4E 3C8

Dear Council,

I write to provide the most enthusiastic support in dedicating a new name for North Shore Parkette. As you are aware, many artifacts were found in the surrounding area of Lake Wilcox Park from the Iroquoian / Paleo-Indian era inhabitants. It is known that these indigenous people lived and roamed the land surrounding this beautiful lake.

As an owner and resident of this community, I must agree that choosing a name for this park is very important. I commend you for proposing to rename this park for three main reasons.

First, I believe that the designation of this land in recognition of the Iroquoian tribe will be a prominent feature of this parkette. A sign commemorating the tribe with a historical explanation would be a great symbol to us and any proud Canadian. Perhaps the presence of a monument dedicated to perpetuating the story of the Iroquoian Tribe could be erected in order to actively encourage and honor our aboriginals as part of our local and Canadian history. Children and adults will cherish this historical aspect.

Naming this parkette after a person who means nothing to our future youth is useless. Give this Parkette a name that will mean something for generations to come. Put aside the political pressure of a select few and do what is right. This should be a gathering place for those who want to commemorate and recognize Canadian ancestors. People from all walks of life will be able to recognize and relate to the naming of this park after the Iroquoian first nations. It will symbolize hope and positive change, giving true recognition to the people who were there before us, giving them a voice and a special place.

I hope that naming the park after the Iroquoian will strengthen the community and further encourage individuals to gather and build relationships in this

beautiful public space. This tribe was esteemed, respected mother nature and all it yielded for them to survive and embodies the values of our country.

Secondly, the Canadian government has made its agenda to recognize the Aboriginals and First Nations people. Let Richmond Hill be part in recognizing this historical momentum. Let's be part of this initiative by giving rightful recognition to first nations people with our very own parkette. Since Council missed that opportunity in naming Lake Wilcox Park after the indigenous people, it will be yet another missed opportunity to let this one go.

Finally, naming the park after the Iroquoian Tribe provides the city of Richmond Hill an opportunity to correct a historic injustice for the aboriginal natives. Our city has a chance to recognize the Iroquoian Tribe and not let them be forgotten.

A great gesture would be for the Town of Richmond Hill to communicate with the first nations and indigenous people. Demonstrating that the town of Richmond Hill wants to join in recognizing with much anticipation, to honor the natives that once roamed this great land by recognizing them in naming the parkette after them. I encourage the City Council to consider swift review and approval of this proposal by showing they support first nations.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lavigne

President of TFF