

Proposed Official Naming of the Community Recreation Centre and Library to be located at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane, Ward 17

Presented to the City of Toronto
Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee

January 14, 2022

Presented by: Sandra Rodriguez,
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Acknowledgements

Huron-Wendat Nation

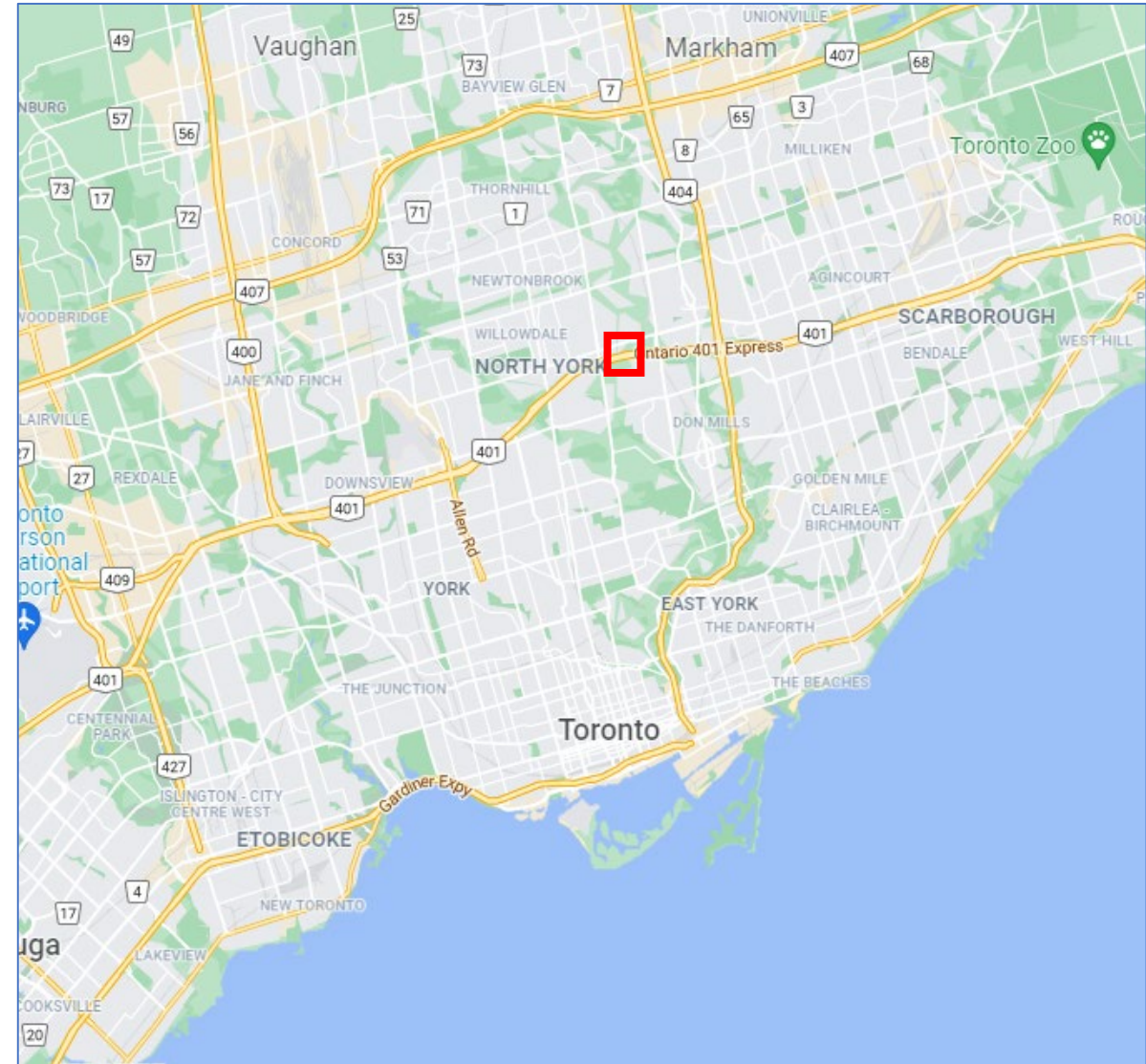
- Dominic Ste-Marie
- Melanie Vincent
- Dr. Louis Lesage

Purpose for Today

- Describe the significance of the site where a new community recreation centre, library and childcare centre will be located.
- Provide an overview of the new facility, the first City of Toronto community centre and first Toronto Public Library branch to be named by an Indigenous community.
- Describe the collaborative process between the City, Toronto Public Library, and the Huron-Wendat Nation to explore extending the name 'Ethennonhawastishnen' to the new facility.
- Seek the Committee's advice on approaches to support Indigenous placemaking onsite.

The Site

- 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane is located in Ward 17 (Don Valley North) and is a part of a new 45 acre, master planned community that will be home to 10,000 residents.
- Adjacent to Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park.



Historical Significance

- The site is adjacent to the [Moatfield Ossuary](#) and village (1280 CE to 1320 CE), a significant Wendat archaeological site.
- Following consultation with Six Nations Council of Oshweken, a study of the site was conducted in 1997.
- A remarkable finding at this site was the presence of inhabitants who had lived long, healthy lives.

Renaming the Street and Park

- In 2019, outreach to Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Huron-Wendat Nation to understand how the City of Toronto could commemorate the site and foster dialogue between current residents and Indigenous communities.
- The Wendat name, Ethennonnhawahstihnen' was suggested, which translates to: "*Where they had a good, beautiful life*".
- Strong local community support for the new name.
- October 2019, the City formally renamed the local street and park.
- Ongoing efforts to educate residents about the name and significance of the site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24I2_8KK2FE

Naming the New Community Centre

- A new facility (including community centre, library and child care) is under construction and is expected to be open in late 2022 or early 2023.
- On July 14, 2021, City Council requested staff to investigate naming the new community centre





Multi-use path to community centre from Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Park





Ground Level: Library and Aquatic Centre

- Lobby area
- New Toronto Public Library branch
- Aquatic Centre with 6 lane lap pool, barrier-free leisure pool, deck, and viewing gallery



Second Level: Childcare and Multi-purpose Rooms

- Childcare Centre for 52 children and interactive outdoor play area
- Multi-purpose rooms



Third Level: Gymnasium and Recreation

- Recreation space with rooms for art, preschool, and games
- Community hall with kitchen
- Gymnasium with running/walking track and change rooms
- Fitness and dance studios
- Weight room

Note: Underground parking will be available (not shown).

Naming the New Community Centre

- In 2021, City¹ and Toronto Public Library staff re-engaged the Huron-Wendat Nation to understand their interest in extending the name 'Ethennonnhawahstihnen' to the new facility.
- Huron-Wendat Nation supports the name *Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Community Recreation Centre and Library*.
- Name is aligned with City of Toronto convention to name facilities after their location and street
- Name is aligned draft City of Toronto Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm

1. Parks, Forestry and Recreation; Indigenous Affairs Office; and Economic Development & Culture

Draft Principles for Commemoration

- Indigenous Place-Keeping
- Diversity our strength
- Co-creation
- Demonstrated community support and community engagement
- Relevance to Toronto
- Celebrating untold stories
- Historical and community research
- Compliance with legislation, City By-laws and policies

Source: Draft City of Toronto Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm,
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-168524.pdf>

Placemaking

- The City's work towards Indigenous placemaking and Truth and Reconciliation does not end with the conferral of a name.
- The City remains committed to explore opportunities for Indigenous placemaking and programming at this community centre, as a necessary step towards fully realising the meaning and significance of the name.

Next Steps

- Present name to North York Community Council on February 23, 2022 for formal approval.
- Toronto Public Library Board will consider the name for the new onsite branch on January 24, 2022.
- Placemaking: Commissioning Huron-Wendat artwork and historical and cultural interpretive content onsite.
- Plan opening ceremonies with Indigenous communities.

Discussion

- **How can the City commemorate the stories of past, current, and future Indigenous peoples and communities at the site?**
- **How can the City ensure that local Indigenous community members and the broader community are engaged with and connected to the site?**
 - e.g. through programming delivered at the facility, or through artwork and continuous development of art, etc.

For More Information

- For updates on the construction of the new Community Recreation Centre and Library at 100 Ethennonnhawahstihnen' Lane, please visit: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/construction-new-facilities/new-parks-facilities/bessarion-community-centre/>
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