

HALIFAX

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Item No. 11.1.8
Halifax Regional Council
August 31, 2021

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by 
Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: July 12, 2021

SUBJECT: **AN109: HRM Asset Names, January 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021**

ORIGIN

HRM has received asset naming requests from the period January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Administrative Order Number 46, Respecting HRM Asset Naming Policies

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1) Approve the addition of the names Phyllis Blakeley, Edmund Ryan and Sarah Jane O'Reilly to the existing Commemorative Names List as shown on Attachment A;
- 2) Approve the renaming of the Glenbourne Park Soccer Field to the Clark Memorial Soccer Field (655 Parkland Dr, Halifax), as shown on Attachment B;
- 3) Approve the renaming of the Mainland North Linear Greenway to the Mainland North Trail (Halifax), as shown on Attachment C;
- 4) Approve the housekeeping renaming of the Seaside Elementary School Playground to the Gary Babin Memorial Playground (1881 Caldwell Rd, Eastern Passage), as shown on Attachment D;
- 5) Approve the renaming of the Tallahassee Recreation Centre to the Horizon Recreation Centre (168 Redoubt Way, Eastern Passage), as show on Attachment E;
- 6) Approve the administrative park name as shown on Attachment F.

BACKGROUND

HRM's Asset Naming Policy Administrative Order (AO 46) allows any person or group to apply for a commemorative name for HRM assets, particularly streets, parks, or buildings. The AO 46 requires the Civic Addressing Coordinator to consult with at least one representative from each asset category, the municipal archivist, and a representative from HRM Cultural Affairs on each application. This group forms the HRM Asset Naming Committee (the Committee). The Committee also consults with the local Councillor(s) for each application.

Requests

Staff recommends Regional Council approve nine requests for the period of January 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 as outlined below:

- a) 3 names to be added to the commemorative names list;
- b) 3 renamings of park features;
- c) 1 building renaming;
- d) 1 gifting submission; and
- e) 1 administrative park name.

DISCUSSION

Staff recommends that Regional Council approve all nine requests as outlined below:

Commemorative Names List

Commemorative names recognize individual persons, groups of people, and geographic features. The Asset Naming criteria states that individuals who have demonstrated excellence, courage, or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM, the Province of Nova Scotia and/or Canada may be recognized. The criteria also allow for names that recognize geographical or topographical features of the area. The Asset Naming Committee is recommending approval of three commemorative name applications for Dr Phyllis Blakeley, Edmund Ryan, and Sarah Jane O'Reilly.

These names meet the criteria of the HRM Asset Naming Policies. Therefore, the Asset Naming Committee recommends that these applications, as outlined in Attachment A be approved and added to the commemorative names list.

Park Feature Renaming

The Committee recommends:

- renaming of the Glenbourne Park Soccer Field to the Clark Memorial Soccer Field, as shown on Attachment B;
- renaming of the Mainland North Linear Greenway to the Mainland North Trail, as shown on Attachment C; and
- the housekeeping renaming of the Seaside Elementary School Playground to the Gary Babin Memorial Playground, as shown on Attachment D.

Building Renaming:

The Committee recommends:

- the renaming of the Tallahassee Recreation Centre to the Horizon Recreation Centre, as show on Attachment E.

Administrative Park Names:

Administrative names reflect either the neighborhood, subdivision, street, or community name in which a park or park feature is located. Since the previous asset naming report, one administrative name has been submitted. Staff have reviewed the name and recommend that the administrative name be approved by Regional Council, as shown in Attachment F.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are minimal costs associated with the administration of the HRM's Asset Naming Policy. These costs can be accommodated within the existing 2021-2022 operating budget for C420-Planning & Development.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process is consistent with the intent of the HRM Community Engagement Strategy. The level of community engagement is ongoing and is achieved through promotion online and the creation of printed marketing material and engaging local interest groups. Any member of the community is welcome to submit applications for commemorative names within HRM.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No environmental implications were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Regional Council could choose to not approve some, or all, of the requested names. This alternative is not recommended as the names meet the Council approved criteria as outlined in HRM Asset Naming Policies.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Commemorative Name Application for Commemorative Names List
- Attachment B: Clark Memorial Soccer Field
- Attachment C: Mainland North Trail
- Attachment D: Gary Babin Memorial Playground
- Attachment E: Horizon Recreation Centre
- Attachment F: Administrative Park Name

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Gayle MacLean, Civic Addressing Coordinator 902.719.9102

Attachment A – Commemorative Name Application for Commemorative Names List

1. Dr Phyllis Blakeley's Application

Request

-Street

Geographic Location

- Bedford (preferably West Bedford, Brookline Park)

Request to be considered under the following criteria

- individual(s) who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM, NS and/or Canada

Biography (as provided by the applicant)

Phyllis R Blakeley was born in Halifax in 1922. She was a graduate from Dalhousie University and received her BA in 1942 and MA in 1945. In 1945 she joined the staff of the Public Archives of NS as a research assistant. She served as Assistant Provincial Archivist from 1959-1977 and Associate Provincial Archivist from 1977-1981.

In 1982 she was appointed the Provincial Archivist for Nova Scotia, the first woman to hold that position. She retired in 1985 and passed away in 1986. She is buried at Camp Hill Cemetery.

Dr Blakeley published many papers, contributed to journals and served as a contributing editor the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, with 31 articles. A bibliography of her own published works is extensive, but several significant titles stand out: Glimpses of Halifax (1949), The Story of Prince Edward Island (1963) and Nova Scotia's Two Remarkable Giants: Angus McAskill and Anna Swan (1970) and perhaps her most widely read book, Nova Scotia – A Brief History, which was first published in 1956 and for decades was the history school text for all schools in the Province.

Associations & Memberships

- Vice President of the Royal NS Historical Society
- Charter member and past President of the Heritage Trust of NS
- Past President of the NS branch of The Canadian Authors Association
- Honorary Vice President of The United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada
- Charter member of the Association of Canadian Archivists
- Member of the Canadian Historical Association and the Women's Club, Dalhousie University

Awards and Honours

- Doctor of Laws degree from Dalhousie University (1977)
- Member of The Order of Canada (1978) For having served her province for well over 30 years and for devoting herself particularly to the preservation of its cultural and heritage.
- Fellow of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society (1979)
- Doctor of Letters from St. Mary's University (1983)
- In 1988, the Council of NS Archives established a Dr Phyllis Blakeley Award for Archival Excellence as a memorial to her contributions in the archival field and in recognition of current outstanding efforts in the profession.

Letters of Support: Helen Creighton Folklore Society

2. Edmund Ryan's Application

Request

-Street, building, park, commercial vessel or ferry

Geographic Location

- District 11

Request to be considered under the following criteria

- individual(s) who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM, NS and/or Canada
- individual(s) who have risked his/her life to save or protect others

Biography (as provided by the applicant)

In the pre-dawn of April 1, 1873, the SS Atlantic wrecked on Meagher's Island off Lower Prospect, with a loss of some 550 lives. After the Halifax Explosion, it was the second biggest loss of life in a single event in Nova Scotia history. About 400 were saved, thanks to the efforts of a small group of fishermen from Lower Prospect, who braved high seas, rocks and dangerous conditions in their rowboats to rescue survivors from the grounded and sinking vessel. The survivors, in their nightclothes, were taken ashore and cared for. A new book coming out this fall is dedicated to their efforts with these words:

Dedicated to the memory of the men and women of Meagher's Island, Ryan's Island and Lower Prospect, whose lives were thrown into turmoil by the arrival of some 400 men who had to be rescued from the sea, resuscitated, warmed, accommodated, nursed, fed and clothed.

Their leader was Edmund Ryan, the local Justice of the Peace, who arrived at the site at 4:30 A.M. He took charge and was hands-on in the rescue by manning one of the rescue boats. Many dozens of survivors were taken to his house after being rescued and were cared for by his family. In the days following the disaster, Edmund Ryan examined and documented each body, recovering valuables on behalf of the families or the federal government if no next-of-kin could be found, and gathering identification details to ensure burial in the faith of each deceased.

Newspaper report on death of Edmund Ryan 3:30 A.M. July 6, 1894

This morning, July 6, at 99 Creighton Street, after a short illness, Edmund Ryan, aged 69 years and 6 months, inspector of fish and oils for Halifax county, leaving wife and three children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and father. (Boston and New York papers please copy.) The deceased was well known and respected in the business community as an honest and upright man. He had held for a long time the position of chief inspector of fish and oils for Halifax county, being an appointee of the McKenzie government. He also served for a lengthy period as county councillor, representing Lower Prospect, and was a valued member of that body. At the time of the wreck of the steamer Atlantic (being then a resident of Lower Prospect) he rendered such valuable assistance that in recognition of his services he was presented by the Dominion government with a gold watch and chain, and in addition to this he was remembered by many mementoes from the passengers.

Background on the SS Atlantic (as provided by the applicant)

Along with the Clancys, Edmund Ryan and his brother and cousins were the first on the scene after the grounded Atlantic was discovered. Edmund Ryan, 49, and his wife Elizabeth lived with their three children on Ryan's Island, which separated Meagher's Island from Hennesey's Island and the mainland at Lower Prospect. When Michael Clancy saw the magnitude of the disaster, he knew he would need all the help he could get so he sent for Ryan, his nearest neighbour and the Justice of the Peace for Lower Prospect and Terence Bay.

By 4:30 A.M. Ryan, Patrick Dollard and Richard Norris were at the wreck site. They found 25 or 30 of the passengers and crew at Clancy's house or on shore, having either swum from the wreck or pulling themselves on a rope stretched from the ship to a rock and then on another rope from the rock to the shore. The wind was high, and waves were breaking over the wreck, which was sunk by the stern and almost on its side, with the four masts pointing out to sea.

After getting the ship's name from Third Officer Cornelius Brady, Ryan sent Dollard and Norris to Samuel Blackburn Sr., the post office keeper at Lower Prospect, with a note to be sent to Halifax and then telegraphed to the ship's owners in England. He instructed them to also rouse the neighbours and have them bring their boats over. He then helped land the men coming ashore from the rock but after 15 or 20 minutes he saw so many perishing in the attempt that he decided they needed a boat. Clancy brought his dory and they tried rowing to the wreck, but the boat could not handle the waves. They needed something bigger, so he sent some men to drag James Coolen's large seine boat across the island and by 5:30, manned by a crew of five, it was taking loads of 8 -10 men from the rock to the shore. At first only Coolen and Edmund's brother Dennis Ryan manned the boat as others were reluctant to join because of the high seas, but they were soon joined by Patrick Dollard, Edmund's cousin Francis Ryan and John Blackburn. His other cousin Stephen Ryan and Samuel Blackburn Jr. stood by with Clancy's small boat in case they had to rescue the rescuers. Edmund Ryan went for another boat and it was launched three quarters of an hour after the first. Then, he took some men to get his own boat from Ryan's Island.

After people were rescued, they received sustenance at Clancy's house and were then sent to Ryan's house where his wife Elizabeth and daughters Emma and Ellen got them ready for distribution throughout the community.

3.Sarah Jane O'Reilly's Application

Request

-To be determined

Geographic Location

- District 11

Request to be considered under the following criteria

- individual(s) who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of HRM, NS and/or Canada
- individual(s) who have an extraordinary community service record
- individual(s) who have risked his/her life to save or protect others.

Biography (as provided by the applicant)

In the pre-dawn of April 1, 1873, the SS Atlantic wrecked on Meagher's Island off Lower Prospect, with a loss of some 550 lives. After the Halifax Explosion, it was the second biggest loss of life in a single event in Nova Scotia history. About 400 were saved, thanks to the efforts of a small group of fishermen from Lower Prospect, who braved high seas, rocks and dangerous conditions in their rowboats to rescue survivors from the grounded and sinking vessel. The survivors, in their nightclothes, were taken ashore and cared for. A new book coming out this fall is dedicated to their efforts with these words:

Dedicated to the memory of the men and women of Meagher's Island, Ryan's Island and Lower Prospect, whose lives were thrown into turmoil by the arrival of some 400 men who had to be rescued from the sea, resuscitated, warmed, accommodated, nursed, fed and clothed.

There was one family living on Meagher's Island headed by Michael Clancy, a fisherman. His wife was an invalid and their daughter, Sarah-Jane O'Reilly and her two small children lived with them. Her husband was working in Boston. Sarah Jane was front and centre in keeping the survivors alive. For her efforts that night and days afterwards, the citizens of Chicago awarded her a sizable cash reward and a gold locket and chain, containing the inscription, "Presented to Sarah Jane O'Reilly for heroic conduct in attention to survivors of steamer Atlantic, July 1, 1873." In addition, the Liverpool Shipwreck & Humane Society gave her a cash award, and, with her father, she shared a large reward from the White Star Line, the owners of the ship. James McAllister, a member of the crew, was quoted as saying, "We were treated well, and every care taken of us by the fishermen on shore, especially by the Clancy's. That's a splendid, brave girl, that daughter of his."

Michael Clancy and his family were the first Canadians to see the ill-fated Atlantic, within less than an hour of her grounding near their home. The ship crashed so close to the house on Meagher's Island that they heard the hissing after Chief Engineer John Foxley opened the boiler valves to release the steam to keep the boilers from blowing up and scalding everyone in the engine room.

Sarah Jane had two children of her own: Mary, aged five, and James, two, so she had her hands full, without having hundreds of suffering people descend on her in the middle of the night. But that's what happened when survivors of the sinking ship started getting rescued. She reported that at one time there were 75 people being cared for in the tiny house. So much water was carried into the house on the sopping survivors that her father had to bore holes in the floor to let it drain out.

The Clancy family laboured throughout what remained of the night and all the next day, aiding people and sending them on to the mainland of Lower Prospect and other communities. The ship went aground at 3:15 A.M. and the last of the survivors were not rescued until mid afternoon.

In a letter she wrote to the Halifax Herald in 1906, Sarah Jane declared, "The last two men saved were benumbed with cold and could not have lived much longer; one was put to bed. I gave the other hot drinks and told Mr. Ryan to take the man to his house, as our house was packed full, could not hold another person. We gave our rooms and beds to the survivors."

Sarah Jane's heroism became famous and spawned a mythical character, supposedly a daughter of Michael Clancy. In 1873, a book titled *Carrie Clancy: The Heroine of the Atlantic* was published in Boston. In true Victorian fashion it was overly melodramatic and credited the teenaged heroine with some wonderful feats of bravery, including swimming out to the ship to rescue passengers. It was complete fiction; Michael Clancy never had such a daughter. His heroic daughter was Sarah Jane O'Reilly. In the Star of the Sea Cemetery in Lower Prospect was a fenced in area with a headstone unreadable and broken but the footstone read, "To honor Sarah and John O'Reilly who cared for Master John Hindlay, only surviving child of S.S. Atlantic."

Her obituary in the Halifax Daily Echo on September 15, 1922 stated, "Nova Scotia has lost another of her splendid women of the old school, a gentle, true-hearted firm principled woman of the old pioneer stock that has made Nova Scotia what it is today. No biographer could pick out a finer character to study or a more interesting life history.

"It was on April 1, 1873, that the incident occurred which tinged her life with sad memories, namely the wreck of the steamer "Atlantic" on the rocks of Meagher's Island, right at her very door so to speak." Sarah Jane O'Reilly is one of the half dozen truly heroic people whose energy and resourcefulness helped to save all those lives.

Attachment B –Clark Memorial Soccer Field

Request

-Rename Glenbourne Park Soccer Field to Clark Memorial Soccer Field (see map below)

Geographic Location

- within Glenbourne Park, 655 Parkland Dr, Halifax

Request to be considered under the following criteria

- individual(s) who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the HRM, NS and/or Canada
- individual(s) who have an extraordinary community service record

Biography (as provided by the applicant)

Ian Andrew Clark was born on February 19, 1970. He earned his Bachelor Degrees in Physical Education and Education respectively from Dalhousie University. While at Dalhousie he was a member of the Varsity Soccer Team. Ian also played for Halifax King of Donair Senior Soccer Club who in 2001 became the first club team from Nova Scotia to win a gold medal at the National Championship. For their efforts Ian and his teammates were inducted into the NS Sports Hall of Fame in 2012. After soccer Ian took up a variety of outdoor adventure sports, most notably orienteering. In 2006 he graduated from Acadia University with a Masters in Education (Counselling) and worked as a school counsellor in the HRCE since that time.

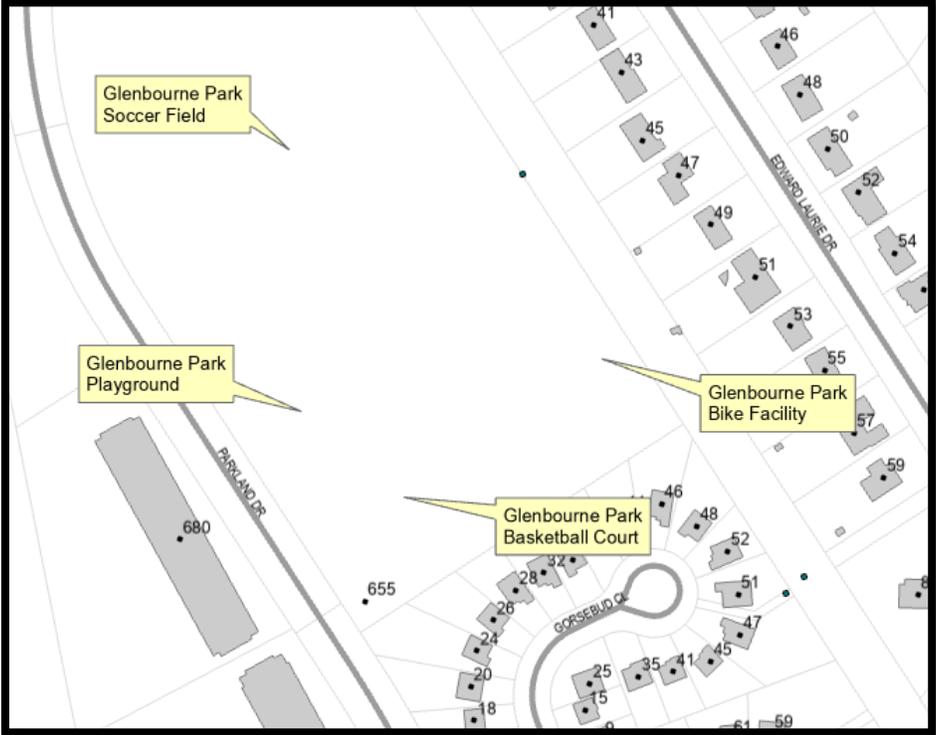
Ian helped found the Wolverines soccer club that had a mandate to make soccer more financially accessible to all including those from marginalized communities.

When he coached soccer at public schools here in HRM, there was significant diversity on his teams including African-Nova Scotian and Filipino at Eastern Passage and Graham Creighton. He coached a team from Fairview Junior High School which also had an incredibly diverse team membership.

Outside of soccer, he initiated the Gay Straight Alliance, a project at public schools, that advocated for the rights of students belonging to the LGBTQ++ community for which he received the Apple Award. This also is an indication of his commitment to diversity, inclusion, fairness and accessibility.

He volunteered his time to coaching soccer for many years. He passed away August 31, 2019

Time Frame	Activity
1989	NS Canada Games Soccer Team Member
1993-1996	Coached Youth Soccer – Dunbrack Soccer Club
1996-2017	Coached Various Junior High Soccer Teams -Astral Drive -Graham-Creighton -Eastern Passage -Fairview Junior High
2001	Member of the Senior Soccer Team who won a gold medal at the National Championship (a first for NS)
2007 – until when he got sick	OANS Executive Board Member – Various roles and Event Director
2008	Bronze Medal Winner at the Canadian Orienteering Championships
2012	Inducted in the NS Sport Hall of Fame for event in 2001
2014-2015	Coached Youth Soccer – Wolverines Soccer Club
2014-2015	Orienteering Association of NS Male Athlete of the Year



Attachment D –Gary Babin Memorial Playground

Request

-Officially rename Seaside Elementary School Playground to Gary Babin Memorial Playground (see map below)

Geographic Location

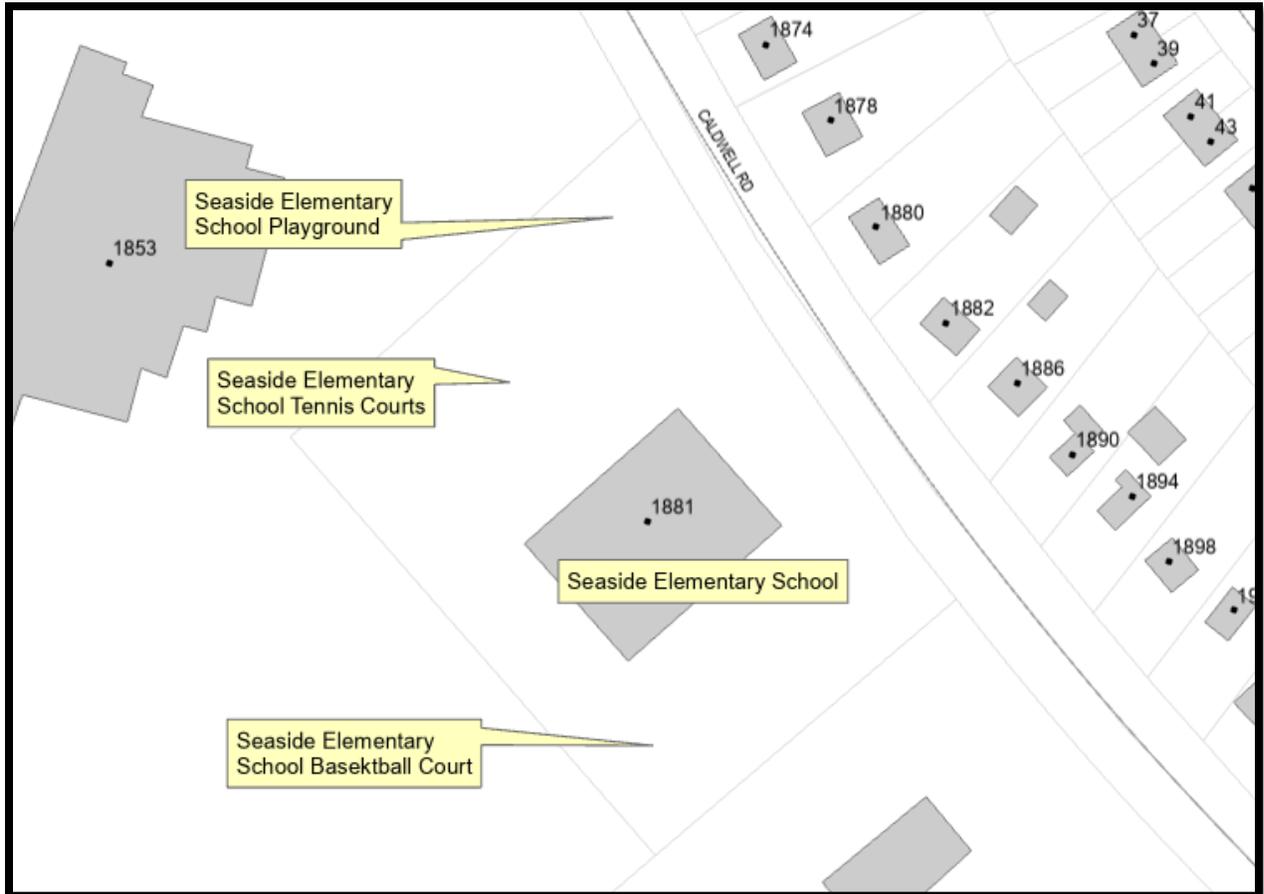
- Within Eastern Passage Common adjacent to the Seaside Elementary School, 1881 Caldwell Rd, Eastern Passage

Request to be considered under the following criteria

- Playground was renamed on May 25, 2005 at Harbour East Community Council, HRM park feature sign is currently posted

Biography

Gary was a long-time volunteer with youth and community. He passed away unexpectedly when his daughters were young. His wife still lives in Eastern Passage. There is a high school bursary given out in his name as well.



Attachment E –Horizon Recreation Centre

Request

-Officially rename Tallahassee Recreation Centre to Horizon Recreation Centre

Geographic Location

-168 Redoubt Way, Eastern Passage, with the Tallahassee Community School.

Request to be considered

- On March 31, 2021 the Halifax Regional Centre of Education (HRCE) announced that Tallahassee Community School in Eastern Passage is being renamed Horizon Elementary School.
- It is the practice that if a school name is changed, any HRM facility (such as a community centre) associated with that school be renamed to the new school name or to a new commemorative name, and may not retain the name of the former school.

Statement from Michelle Myers – School Advisory Council, Tallahassee Community School

"As a committee, school family, and as part of the HRCE at large, we strive every day to be inclusive and welcoming – not only for our students, but for their families, our staff, and the communities we serve.

We are proud of the research we conducted in relation to the origins and history of our school name. It has been a deep learning experience for us all. By renaming our school, we are eliminating a barrier that can be interpreted as racist and solidifying our commitment to being part of the solution to build an equitable society.

We are confident that our new name, Horizon Elementary School, is a reflection of our geographic location, and is a fitting addition to join our Island View Family of Schools in Eastern Passage.

We would like to offer our sincerest appreciation to everyone in our community who contributed to this process. We look forward to witnessing Horizon Elementary School write its own unique chapters in the legacy of our incredible school and community."

