

Re: Town of Amherstburg Name

I, Councillor Simone, hereby provide Notice of Motion to Town of Amherstburg Council:

Whereas the Town of Amherstburg name references Jeffery Amherst, 1st Baron Amherst, commander of the British forces and first British Governor General of the Province of Quebec;

And Whereas General Jeffery Amherst's legacy is controversial due to his role in protecting Canada while also expressing the desire to exterminate the race of indigenous people during Pontiac's War, and his advocacy of biological warfare in the form of gifting blankets infected with smallpox as a weapon;

And Whereas the ideals and views of Jeffery Amherst do not reflect the values of the Town of Amherstburg or its residents;

And Whereas the Town of Amherstburg recognizes and values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original Peoples of Turtle Island;

And Whereas the Town of Amherstburg is an inclusive community that recognizes the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all persons to live in a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the worth of each person, allowing them to contribute fully to the development and well-being of the community;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Amherstburg recognize the controversial nature of this individual and denounce the statements and actions made by General Jeffrey Amherst, agreeing that we do not share his expressed views or values; and

Furthermore, be it resolved, that Council recognizes that the reference to General Jeffrey Amherst in the name of the Town of Amherstburg after this individual can be hurtful and disrespectful to our residents; and

Furthermore, be it resolved, that Council wishes to rectify this situation by making clear that the Town of Amherstburg does not condone the views of this individual; and

Furthermore, be it resolved the Town of Amherstburg declare that the name of the Town of Amherstburg shall not be a reference General Jeffrey Amherst; and,

Furthermore, be it resolved, that the Town of Amherstburg name shall henceforth reference the origins of the name of Amherst, that is, the etymological root of the word which bespeaks, "a place amongst the woods or a settlement amongst the woods," and the etymological root of the word 'burg' which is "a walled or defensive settlement," which when taken together reference the creation of a defensive Fort and Naval Yard at Amherstburg amidst a previously densely forested area; and,

Furthermore, be it resolved, that the Town of Amherstburg states a commitment to investing in and taking a leading role in the environmental stewardship and the restoration of the natural environment of the municipality so that the Town can once more be “a place amongst the woods;” and,

Furthermore, be it resolved, that the Town of Amherstburg begin a marketing campaign, through social media, to promote the Town of Amherstburg’s commitment to environmental stewardship and leadership.