

“Toponymie” for Willowbrook Development.

As proposed by the Hudson Arts & Culture Council – August, 2021

In a recent meeting, Mayor Nichols offered the council the opportunity to provide input concerning names for the three new streets currently under construction for the Willowbrook development located in the Como sector of our Town.

It is important that the names for these streets should hold some cultural and/or historical significance to the specific area (Como – Eastern part of the town) and to Hudson in general and that there should be one to represent the French history of the area, one to represent the Indigenous people who first lived in the area and one to represent the English population who settled the area.

In researching possible options, we consulted the members of the committee for their suggestions as well as verifying with the Toponymie Commission of Quebec. The *Commission de toponymie* is the public body responsible for managing Québec place names: names of natural geographical features and constructed ones (dams, embankments, bridges, etc.). In short, the Commission has jurisdiction regarding all types of places.

<https://toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/english.aspx>

INDIGENOUS SUGGESTION: Chemin OSEKOWA

As the name of the sub-division is called Willowbrook, this suggestion is the Mohawk word for Willow Tree. Mohawk was suggested as the native language that would best suit this area because of the proximity to the Kanesatake community across the Ottawa River.

FRENCH SUGGESTION: Rue JEAN-BAPTISTE SABOURIN

In 1732, Jean Baptiste built the homestead on lot #15 which today is called Greenwood. This home in Como – only a short distance from the new project - is considered to be the oldest in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. We would consider the street to include ‘Jean-Baptiste’ as there are several other Sabourin streets in the sector (one in Rigaud, one in Vaudreuil Dorion and one in Pointe-Fortune). It would be up to the Commission de toponymie to determine if the first name is necessary to differentiate the new street in Hudson.

ENGLISH SUGGESTION (1): Rue SCHNEIDER

Another heritage building in the area, located at 264 Main Rd was: "A customary stopping place of the Nor' Westers and other travellers on the route of the fur-traders, and was built about 1792 by Francis Schroder and maintained as an inn by him and later (1804) by William Schneider and his son Charles for over 65 years". The Schneider Wharf was used by the steamboat *The Ottawa* and in 1856 the Inn was sold to John Hodgson.

ENGLISH SUGGESTION (2): Rue MATTHEWS

George Matthews was the owner of Canada Glass Works, the first known glassworks in Quebec which was situated in Como, the area of Town where the Willowbrook project is sited. This glassworks was the beginning of an important center for the historical production of glass in eastern Canada. Matthews also acted as the first Mayor of the Town and named it in honour of his wife Eliza, whose maiden name was Hudson.