

**Municipality Of Chatham-Kent**

**Corporate Services**

**Municipal Governance**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Meredith Cadotte, Council Coordinator  
**Date:** March 15, 2021  
**Subject:** Renaming of the Wheatley Soccer Field to Michael Laliberte Memorial Soccer Field

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

1. The Wheatley Soccer Field be renamed to Michael Laliberte Memorial Soccer Field.

**Background**

At the October 19, 2020 Council Meeting Council approved the following motion:

**“That**

- 1. A CK Community Champions Program be created to provide a framework for Sponsorship guidelines;**
- 2. The Naming Rights Company be directly appointed to conduct an inventory and valuation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent’s potential assets for the future development of a Sponsorship Program at a one-time cost of \$20,000 to be taken from the Strategic Reserve.**
- 3. Receipt of applications under the Commemorative Naming Policy be temporarily placed on hold until Council receives a report following the valuation of assets and the Naming Rights Sponsorship Strategy plan.”**

At the November 23, 2020 Council Meeting, Council approved the following motion:

**“That Council reconsider the direction given at the October 19, 2020 meeting to put a temporary hold on applications received under the Commemorative Naming Policy”**

The motion to reconsider passed. Council then approved the following motion:

**“That administration investigate the renaming of the Wheatley Soccer Fields to Michael Laliberte Memorial Soccer Field in accordance with the Commemorative Naming Policy and report back to Council.”**

### **Comments**

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent received a renaming application from Christine Hooper to rename the Wheatley Soccer Field to the Michael Laliberte Memorial Soccer Field (Attachment A). Michael was an active member of the Wheatley Area Minor Soccer Association. The soccer field was his favourite place and being able to play soccer kept him fighting through chemotherapy and pain. Sadly, Michael lost his battle with cancer on July 14, 2020. Renaming the soccer field after Michael would be a way to honour his memory and fighting spirit.

As per the requirements of the Commemorative Naming Policy, the proposed name change was advertised on the municipal website for public comment using Let’s Talk CK.

The public comments were overwhelmingly in favour of the renaming with 252 of the 260 respondents indicating they were in support of the renaming of the Wheatley Soccer Field to the Michael Laliberte Memorial Soccer Field. A list of all the public comments are provided in Attachment B.

### **Areas of Strategic Focus and Critical Success Factors**

The recommendation in this report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

Economic Prosperity:

Chatham-Kent is an innovative and thriving community with a diversified economy

A Healthy and Safe Community:

Chatham-Kent is a healthy and safe community with sustainable population growth

People and Culture:

Chatham-Kent is recognized as a culturally vibrant, dynamic, and creative community

Environmental Sustainability:

Chatham-Kent is a community that is environmentally sustainable and promotes stewardship of our natural resources

The recommendation in this report supports the following critical success factors:

Financial Sustainability:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is financially sustainable

Open, Transparent and Effective Governance:

The Corporation of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is open, transparent and effectively governed with efficient and bold, visionary leadership

Has the potential to support all areas of strategic focus & critical success factors

Neutral issues (does not support negatively or positively)

**Consultation**

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries and was consulted during the preparation of this report.

**Financial Implications**

The cost of the replacement sign is approximately \$1,000 and will be covered under existing budget for park signage if the renaming is approved.

Prepared by:

Reviewed

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Meredith Cadotte  
Council Coordinator

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Judy Smith, CMO  
Director, Municipal Governance/Clerk

Reviewed by:

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Cathy Hoffman, MPA, CHRL  
General Manager, Corporate Services/  
Chief Human Resources Officer

Consulted and confirmed the content of the consultation section of the report by:

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Jeff Bray  
Director  
Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries

Attachment(s):      Attachment A – Renaming Application  
                                 Attachment B – Summary of Public Comments



**Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
Commemorative Naming Policy Appendix B  
Re-Naming Application Form**

Recognizing that established names contribute significantly to community identity and pride, proposals to rename existing municipal property, buildings, and features must be predicated by exceptional circumstances. Accordingly, existing names will not be changed without consideration of:

- The historical significance of the existing name (especially where it was named according to the Priority Listing)
- The impact on the individual or organization associated with the existing name
- The cost and impact of changing existing signage, rebuilding community recognition and updating records (data bases, letterhead, promotional materials etc.)

**Nominator's Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information Concerning the Proposed Name**

Which Municipal property or facility are you submitting this name for: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If the name suggested relates to the commemoration of an individual who is alive, please provide the individual's contact information in the section below. *Note: A Commemorative Name may be used only once in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent – subsequent requests will be denied.*

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



Applicable Criteria (select all that apply)

- The nominated names give a sense of place, continuity, belonging and/or celebrates the uniqueness and distinguishing characteristics of Chatham-Kent
- The nominated name maintains a long standing local area identification with residents of Chatham-Kent
- The nominated name promotes pride in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, acknowledges local heritage, history and/or recognizes the unique features and geography
- The nominated name recognizes the contributions or organizations such as a partnership with or without financial contribution
- The nominated individual/family had demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the Province of Ontario and/or Canada
- The nominated individual/family has an extraordinary community service record
- The nominated individual/family has worked to foster equality and reduce discrimination
- A direct relationship or association existed between the place of residence of or community efforts undertaken by the individual/family and the property/building or element to be named.
- The nominated individual has made a significant financial contribution to a park or facility, and the contribution significantly benefits the community that the park or facility serves
- The nominated name has historical significance

**Rationale**

Please describe the rationale for Nomination.

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## Additional Information Required

Please attach the following information as required under Section 3 of the Commemorative Naming Policy:

- Background information and/or biographical information (if named after an organization or an individual) demonstrating that the proposed name is of significance to the community and/or the municipality;
- Documentation including letters from organizations and individuals providing substantial support for the request;
- Documentation verifying that the person/organization being honoured is in agreement with the naming proposal (if they are living), or by their legal representative should they be deceased.

## Cost of Renaming

The cost associated with the renaming initiative will be the responsibility of the individual or community group/organization initiating the request.

## Public Consultation

Where a name change is recommended, a communication strategy will be initiated by advertising the proposed name change on the municipal website for a period of 30 days during which time, public comments will be received and considered.

## Consent

- I have submitted all information accurately and completely to the best of my knowledge
- I have read and understand the Municipality of Chatham-Kent Commemorative Naming Policy
- Understand the Municipality is under no obligation to accept my proposed name, and my proposal may be declined by the Municipality at any time and for any reason during the review
- I understand that Municipal staff may contact me at any time during their review of this proposal for further information as needed
- I understand that if the application is accepted, I (as the Applicant) am responsible for all associated financial implications regarding the re-naming of the requested asset

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*The information collected on this form will be used as part of the Commemorative Naming Process. Personal information on the form and information collected as a result of the public consultation process and staff investigation will be used by Municipal staff and may be made available to the internal stakeholders as outlined in the Commemorative Naming Policy.*

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Mother of Michael Laliberte, I am honoured and humbled that a group of our friends, family and community would like to rename the Wheatley Area Soccer Field after my Son. I most definitely give permission for the field to be named after Michael. The soccer field was his favourite place and being able to play soccer kept him fighting through chemotherapy and pain. The loss of Michael is felt everyday, but his memory is everywhere and I would feel very blessed to have the soccer field be another place to honour his memory and fighting spirit.

With gratitude,  
Erin Medeiros

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# Proposed Renaming of the Wheatley Soccer Field Survey

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

22 November 2017 14 March 2021

### **PROJECT NAME:**

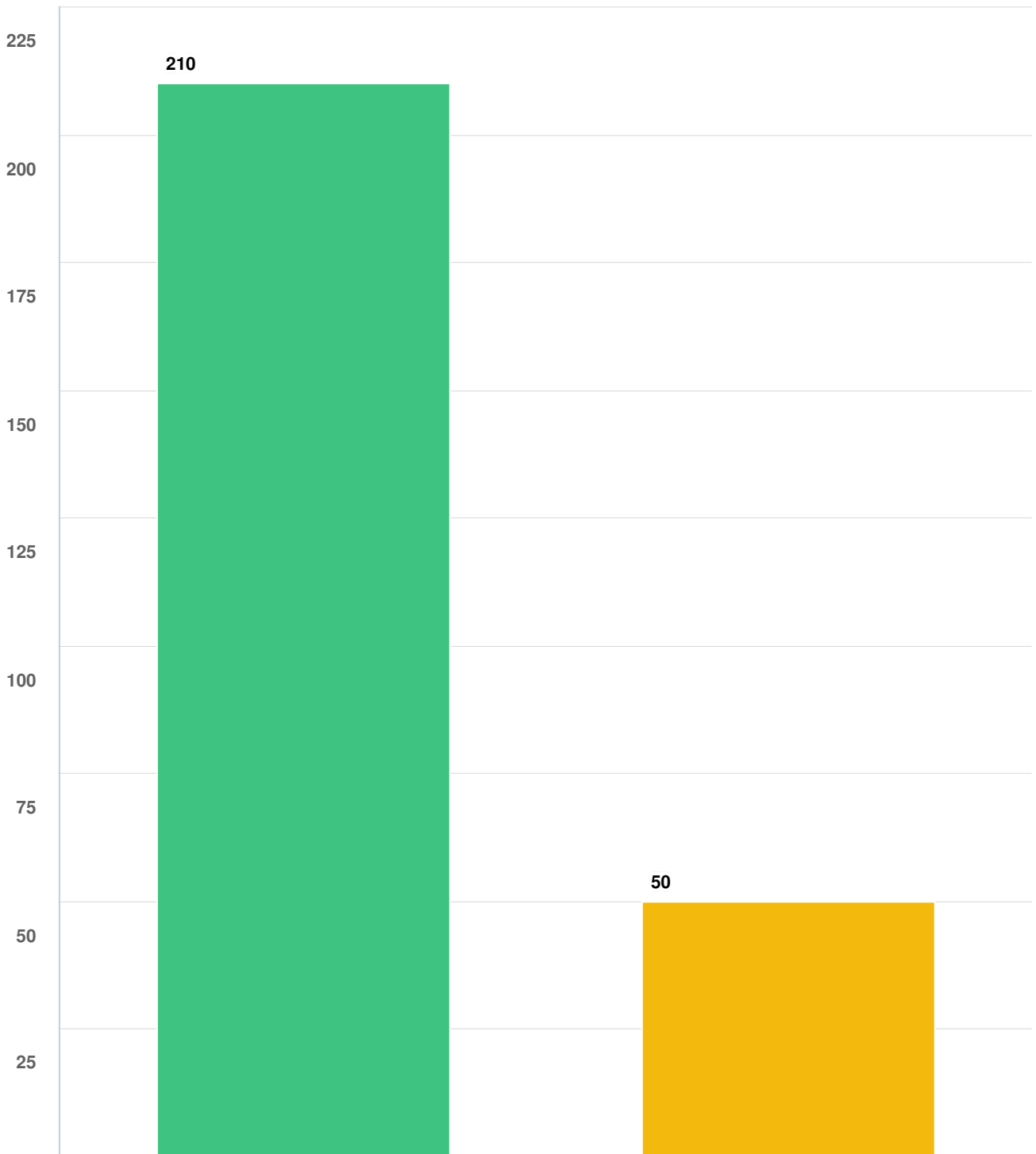
Proposed Renaming of the Wheatley Soccer Field



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# SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** Are you a resident of Chatham-Kent?

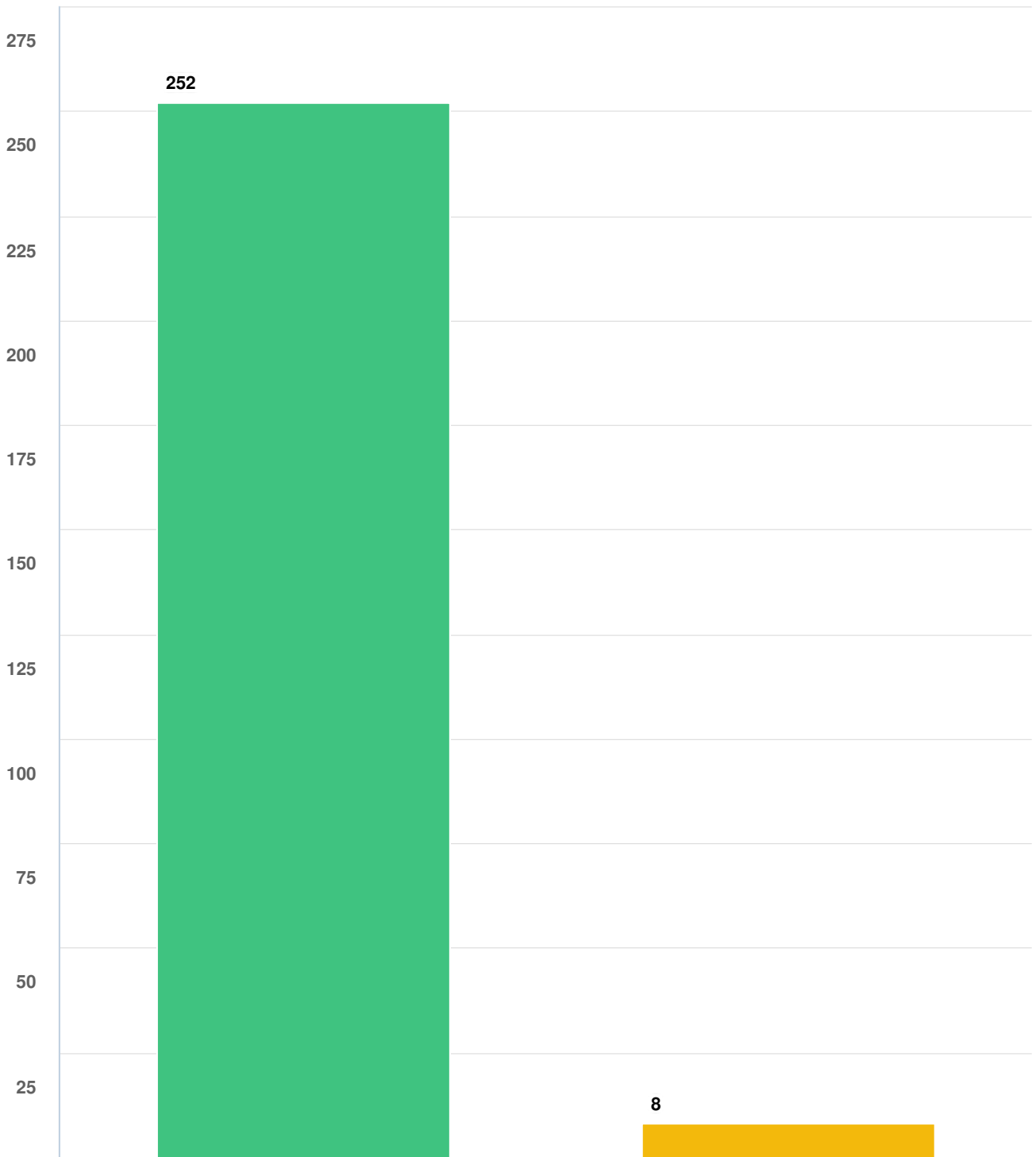


**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Mandatory Question (260 response(s))  
Question type: Checkbox Question*

**Q2** Are you 18 years of age or older?



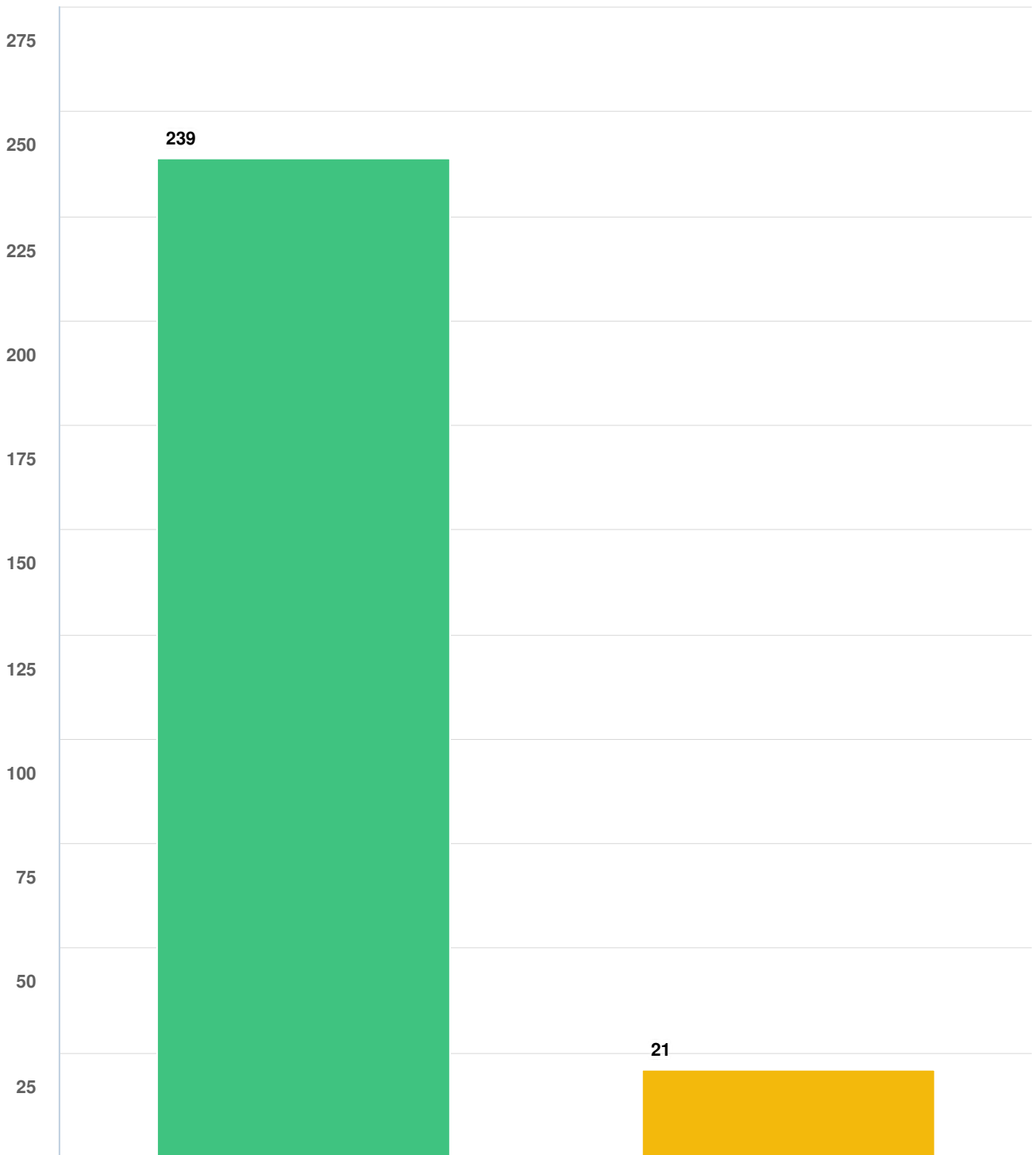
**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Mandatory Question (260 response(s))*

*Question type: Checkbox Question*

**Q3** Do you support the renaming of the Wheatley Soccer Field to the Michael Laliberte Memorial Soccer Field?



**Question options**

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (260 response(s))  
Question type: Checkbox Question

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**Q4** Please explain why or why not.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 10:26 AM

Wonderful way to honor someone taken too soon. I'm sure he would've loved to see a place he spent his time named after him

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:13 AM

This young man did an extraordinary amount for soccer in this town.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:18 AM

Would be a fitting tribute to him!

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:23 AM

My son was a friend of Michael's. But also - Michael and his family are a part of our community and it's just the right thing to do.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:31 AM

So what do you do for the next child that dies prematurely.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:32 AM

Once a park or field is names - what is to stop someone asking for the name to be changed to someone else. Every ten years or so we could have someone asking to change the name to the next deserving person - where would it end.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:33 AM

We are a small town and he's was one of us To honor him..

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:36 AM

Wonderful tribute to an amazing young man

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:37 AM

It is important to remember and honour this amazing youth and his family. Also to inspire and remind our youth what a great role model he was!

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:40 AM

This child was loved by the community for his contributions and his love for his community , the least we can do is show our respect and rename the place he loved most

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:44 AM

Michael was a young man who played soccer in Wheatley. He died of Cancer, and I think this would be a good way for his family, teachers, and his friends to always keep his memory close.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:48 AM

This will stand as a tribute to a wonderful young man who was a great player and team mate to many over the years.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:50 AM

Michael was a very special young man. His soccer skills were superb, he played, coached and refereed while completing chemo treatments and maintained principal's honour roll. He was a good friend to everyone.

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Anonymous 2/12/2021 11:51 AM	The family was important in wheatley and they deserve to be remembered
Anonymous 2/12/2021 11:53 AM	Michael was an avid soccer player in our community and I think renaming the field in his honour is a beautiful way to pay tribute to him and show his loved ones the effect he had on our community.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 11:58 AM	To support the idea of remembering and honouring our hometown heroes, all ages, all circumstances.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 11:58 AM	Michael was a good friend of my son Zack , mike was a great soccer player and a huge inspiration to all of the players! I want everyone to be as determined as him and renaming the field is a great way to honour him!
Anonymous 2/12/2021 12:05 PM	A great way to honor the child he was
Anonymous 2/12/2021 12:11 PM	The contributions described are exceeded by many members of the community, past and present. I do not believe long lasting decisions should be made based on the heightened awareness and emotions of a recent development. The current generic name reflects all those who made it possible for this field to serve as a refuge for people like Michael, and who will continue to do so for others in the years to come.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 12:12 PM	I did not know Michael personally but he was good friends with my cousins kids and friends kids. I heard he was a great friend and soccer player. It would be a great idea to remember a son, brother ,cousin , friend and team mate that way.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 12:20 PM	Michael was a wonderful person who helped coach children in soccer. I believe he helped coach one of my mine as well. He was a huge part of the Wheatley community, loved by family, friends, classmates and teachers.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 12:20 PM	It's a wonderful tribute to him and his family
Anonymous 2/12/2021 12:21 PM	Michael was a close friend of my grandson Zack. Zack commented that Michael loved playing soccer with his friends as it took his mind off of his biggest battle.....cancer. It would mean a lot to Zack & Michael's soccer friends to rename it after Michael's battle with cancer.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 12:25 PM	This would be beneficial for the school children and community at large. This was his passion. Lest we forget.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 12:26 PM	I am a board member of the Wheatley Area Minor soccer and I know firsthand how soccer positively impacted Michael's life. He was a soccer coach and an inspiration to the kids in Wheatley. His memory would be honored with his name on this field and I fully support it.
Anonymous	He was a young man who loved the sport of soccer and was an admirable

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2/12/2021 12:30 PM

role model for our youth.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 12:36 PM

Michael and his family are a special part with that entire organization and those other families that were playing there and calling it home field. This way it will live on and his name survives with the soccer club. Why not?

Anonymous

2/12/2021 12:45 PM

This is a great opportunity for our community to honour an individual whose life was cut short and loved soccer. Every time we see the new name it will bring back happy memories.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 12:56 PM

Michael was a close friend and teammate of our son. His memory represented the best of our community and should live on long after he is gone!

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:03 PM

My answer is maybe, but that option did not exist. I appreciate the reason behind the submission. How does the Municipality know that this is the best candidate? I am sure this is a friend of the person who passed away. There may be others to consider who have contributed much to the Municipality, but the survey is just a yes or no of one person.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:10 PM

A beautiful tribute to a special young local student

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:10 PM

Michael was an inspiration to his peers and should never be forgotten

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:19 PM

Michael was an avid player and volunteer in the soccer organization in our community who's life was cut way too short by cancer. I can't think of any reason why our field would not be named after him.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:24 PM

I think its a great idea to honor the fight that he went through

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:26 PM

A nice tribute to an avid player.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:27 PM

Great tribute

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:29 PM

He was an avid soccer player in his young life and was very respected by so many.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:31 PM

Wonderful way to keep his memory alive.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 01:52 PM

Because he loved to be out there on the field and with his team, he played with my sibling and was a great role model being the older kid on the team.

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Anonymous 2/12/2021 01:54 PM	A beautiful way to honor this brave young mans memory.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 02:23 PM	Nice to remember him by
Anonymous 2/12/2021 02:51 PM	Seems like a good thing to do
Anonymous 2/12/2021 03:07 PM	My son played house and travel soccer with Michael, and he was an amazing person, with such a positive outlook and a love of the game of soccer. This proposal is so right!
Anonymous 2/12/2021 03:34 PM	It is a fitting tribute to this young man.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 04:48 PM	For the reason stated by C. Hopper and what a tribute to a fine young man who died way to young.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 05:19 PM	Michael was an amazing kid that played soccer, coached and was a referee with WAMS. He was a great remodel to so many kids and adults. Even in difficult times he showed up at the field and gave it is all. When the kids and adults of our little village go to the field named in his memory he will be remembered and inspiring for generations to come. I agree 100% to the renaming of the field.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 05:19 PM	Its the right thing to do
Anonymous 2/12/2021 05:22 PM	It's a great tribute.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 05:33 PM	We knew Michael and his family well. I think this would be a most wonderful tribute to Michael's love of the sport and his strength and courage throughout his battle. And his parents and sisters would be so touched by this.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 05:41 PM	Michael was an avid part of our soccer community, his younger sister will be following suit soon I am sure. Beautiful tribute.
Anonymous 2/12/2021 06:00 PM	Good idea
Anonymous 2/12/2021 06:04 PM	Michael had a love for soccer like no other. He not only played but coached - even thru his tough days! He made everyone feel a part of the game. A true warrior!
Anonymous 2/12/2021 06:17 PM	it is a fantastic way to memorialize a special member of the soccer organization

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Anonymous

2/12/2021 07:29 PM

Great idea

Anonymous

2/12/2021 10:06 PM

Because it would be nice to remember

Anonymous

2/12/2021 10:21 PM

I think we should change it because he was a good kid and it really sucks what happened to him. I hope it changes.

Anonymous

2/12/2021 11:08 PM

Michael was a well known member of our community. He loved soccer and participated in the sport every year. He was a great kid with a positive attitude, great work ethic and was admired by all who knew him.

Anonymous

2/13/2021 01:06 AM

Michael Laliberte was a true star! He fought battles that no child/person should ever have to fight. He was a very polite well mannered young man that excelled in everything he did! This would be an amazing tribute to such a great young guy who was taken far too soon!

Anonymous

2/13/2021 06:23 AM

This is a great example to set for the children of our community and a beautiful way for us to help them grieve the loss of a friend.

Anonymous

2/13/2021 07:02 AM

To keep his memory alive! To help other kids understand child cancer..

Anonymous

2/13/2021 07:30 AM

I had the pleasure to teach , coach and watch Michael for many years play soccer on that field. Knowing how his family has supported Wheatley soccer with coaching many years I feel it is very fitting for us to play at "Michael Laliberte Field"!!

Anonymous

2/13/2021 08:50 AM

Michael was on our sons soccer team and also related to my oldest son. This is a great tribute to a great person who shouldn't be forgotten

Anonymous

2/13/2021 09:34 AM

Michael grew up next door to us, while his Mom went to school his great grandmother watched him. Michael had a passion for soccer, a young life gone too soon

Anonymous

2/13/2021 10:01 AM

Michael was such a great kid and he deserves to be remembered forever!

Anonymous

2/13/2021 10:54 AM

Great tribute and way for the young people to share their memories of a great friend.

Anonymous

2/13/2021 02:16 PM

He was a great kid!

Anonymous

2/13/2021 03:24 PM

In memory of Mike

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Anonymous

2/13/2021 11:14 PM

I knew Mike. Knew how much he loved soccer. It's a great way to keep his memory alive.

Anonymous

2/15/2021 01:25 PM

Michael loved soccer. He was an inspiration to the children he coached and reffed while battling cancer

Anonymous

2/15/2021 01:26 PM

Michael was so brave and loved soccer

Anonymous

2/15/2021 01:26 PM

Michael loved soccer he spent so much time on the field

Anonymous

2/15/2021 01:27 PM

Michael coached my daughter while receiving chemo and he was so kind and brave

Anonymous

2/15/2021 01:27 PM

Soccer kept michael going

Anonymous

2/15/2021 01:30 PM

I watched a young man have joy on that field while fighting for his life. He is forever a symbol of heroism for our community.

Anonymous

2/15/2021 02:19 PM

I think it's a good idea, Shows support for the local people

Anonymous

2/15/2021 02:33 PM

Michael was such an amazing boy, so smart, gave so much to the community

Anonymous

2/15/2021 02:45 PM

I think that is very nice michael love football a lot

Anonymous

2/15/2021 04:42 PM

It gives a positive feeling to the kids playing there to remember Michael. Such a good kid

Anonymous

2/15/2021 05:58 PM

it shows the community cares about it people. Michael was a great person thats was take to soon and had a great passion for the game of soccer and it would mean alot to the community to keep his memory alive. so I am very proud of this idea of changing the name it would mean so much to so many thank you

Anonymous

2/15/2021 10:37 PM

Michael was a very well respected player, coach and ref for WAMS. He loved the sport and showed his passion every time he stepped on the field. What better way to remember him, in renaming the field.

Anonymous

2/15/2021 10:45 PM

Michael loved playing soccer. He was a super role model both on and off the field. It would be a great way to honour his memory.

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Anonymous

2/16/2021 06:04 AM

My children played there quite often, and have met and know the story of the honoree. Christine Hopper is also well known to me, and she would never take on a cause such as this, without it being well deserved.

Anonymous

2/16/2021 08:16 AM

He was a friend to my kids and everyone in the town of Wheatley, would be a great honour for his family.

Anonymous

2/16/2021 10:20 AM

He was a wonderful young man who took part in playing and coaching minor soccer. He was a great role model and kind person who was liked by so many and taken far too young. I think it would be so wonderful to honour him by naming the field after Michael.

Anonymous

2/16/2021 10:33 AM

Coming from this small town, sports is a way for kids to build friendships, and stay healthy. I know having this young man's name on the soccer field will let his memory live on.

Anonymous

2/16/2021 10:35 AM

Yet another monument to a male.

Anonymous

2/16/2021 04:08 PM

It's a sad story, but rather than naming the field after a white male, how about we celebrate someone with more diversity. It should be named after someone who did something for the community or the world, rather than "died of cancer". What about naming it after someone like Kadeisha Buchanan.

Anonymous

2/16/2021 08:33 PM

It would be a honor to have the soccer field named after this young man being it's what he enjoyed the most and helped him through his everyday battle miss you dearly rest in peace my dear friend and neighbour

Anonymous

2/16/2021 08:37 PM

This young man fought a long hard battle. He was a proud member of the community. It would be a wonderful to have his memory live on this way for his parents and his sisters.

Anonymous

2/16/2021 08:52 PM

It's the right thing to do

Anonymous

2/16/2021 11:34 PM

This boy was super smart in school, an amazing athlete and respectful among his peers not to mention a fighter of cancer. He's the perfect role model for our society. Soccer made him forget cancer

Anonymous

2/18/2021 08:02 AM

I coached Michael soccer and he loved the fields and was a great team player

Anonymous

2/18/2021 08:23 PM

Michael was playing on my grandson's team when he was diagnosed with Cancer. He was such a good athlete and a very considerate teammate that I was very sad to hear of his passing. It would be a wonderful tribute to his memory.

Anonymous

I read how courageous this young man was during his battle with cancer. His

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2/18/2021 08:39 PM

contributions to soccer as a player and referee at the Wheatley Soccer Field were highly commendable. Despite what he was going through, he was on the Principal's Honour Roll. I think it would be a wonderful, well deserved tribute to Michael and his family! He will stand as an excellent example to other young people. He was a co winner of the Sherra Howe award at the Talbot Trail Golf Club approximately 5 years ago. Sherra, an enthusiastic young lady, was tragically killed in a car accident. This plaque is presented each year by the Howe family to young golfers who have demonstrated Good Sportsmanship and a positive, enthusiastic attitude. Michael would definitely be an excellent choice!

Anonymous

2/19/2021 11:54 AM

Michael was an amazing young man who exemplified leadership skills and excelled at his sport of soccer, even through extensive cancer treatments. It would be a tremendous honour to his family and show students the courage that Michael had to continue to excel through life's greatest challenges.

Anonymous

2/19/2021 03:23 PM

Wonderful tribute.

Anonymous

2/19/2021 06:00 PM

Because he is my grandson and was an avid soccer fan and just a super person

Anonymous

2/19/2021 08:45 PM

Because Micheal was not only a friend of ours but also an inspiration to everyone who met him! What an amazing honour it would be to have the soccer field named after him, a legacy to carry-on forever not only for those who knew and loved him but also for future generations to know of a young man despite facing cancer, he never stopped doing what he loved!

Anonymous

2/19/2021 08:58 PM

Michael is a member of our family it would be such an honour to have this memorial in his name! Soccer was definitely one of his passions

Anonymous

2/19/2021 10:13 PM

Michael was an inspiration, not just to those in his community but to everyone. He was a positive young man and role model for many others going through the same struggles. Re-naming this soccer field in his memory will not only bring great memories to those who've had the opportunity to play along side him and be taught a game he truly loved, but to also be reminded that to never give up on the things that you love no matter how bad things get. Being on that soccer field brought him so much happiness and an outlet of hope. Thank you for allowing us to have our input on this.

Anonymous

2/20/2021 07:40 AM

He was a great supporter of our soccer field, playing, coaching, refereeing. Everyone loved to see him.

Anonymous

2/20/2021 09:44 AM

I support renaming the soccer field because I had the pleasure to meet Michael as a loyal friend of my son, a dedicated soccer player, an always fair referee and a caring coach. Michael was a true leader in our soccer community.

Anonymous

It's important to the Wheatley community to recognize such a strong and

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2/20/2021 10:23 AM

amazing young man

**Anonymous**

2/20/2021 01:18 PM

This young man was a staple to of our field. Whoever was on the field, 9/10 Michael was out there too. Guiding the young ones, competitive with those his age and learning from the older ones. A staple. A constant on the field. This young boy was robbed of his life by cancer, let's not do the same to his legacy. Thank you.

**Anonymous**

2/20/2021 02:06 PM

Michael was a much loved member of this community. The soccer field was a place he would go with his friends and they would just be kids for a moment and make memories. He was a great role model for all and I can't think of a better person to name this field after.

**Anonymous**

2/20/2021 04:48 PM

I did not personally know Michael. I am a student at LDSS, I am 16. My friends knew him well, I only saw him in the halls. From what I heard and saw, he brought a lot of joy to people, wearing his monochromatic outfits every day to school. I personally found the outfits a little obnoxious, but I was so jealous that he was able to express himself freely. I did not know he had cancer. However, when he passed away, I wished that he didn't, I wished it weren't true. Someone like Michael, with so much potential to be something greater than he already was, didn't deserve to be taken from his friends, and his family. I would be so happy if the field was named after him.

**Anonymous**

2/20/2021 06:33 PM

Michael Laliberte was a great kid! Great roll model for kids his age and younger and an avid soccer player and coach.

**Anonymous**

2/20/2021 07:14 PM

Micheal was very inspirational to all that knew him in his short life and had a one and only love of soccer

**Anonymous**

2/21/2021 10:36 AM

Because it's meaningful to the family's and this would be great thing for Wheatley

**Anonymous**

2/21/2021 11:01 AM

He would be honored was a very special boy liked all types of sports specially soccer i had the privilege of knowing him

**Anonymous**

2/21/2021 11:08 AM

It's a rarity that a young individual like this has so much passion for the sport especially during his battle with the disease. The fact that he found refuge at the field during his battle shows that he would have made a difference in the sport. It would be an honour for the municipality to do this for him & for his name never to be forgotten.

**Anonymous**

2/21/2021 11:34 AM

Michael is Family and anyone who knew Mike knew that soccer was his life. He dedicated so much time to the sport. He's was an amazing human being inside and out and deserves this honour. Please change the field!

**Anonymous**

2/21/2021 12:00 PM

Micheal is very deserving of this He loved soccer and would help out when ever needed he was always happy and friendly and honour student even during his fight with cancer

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Anonymous 2/21/2021 12:07 PM	Great memorial idea
Anonymous 2/21/2021 12:59 PM	Great initiative
Anonymous 2/21/2021 02:14 PM	I think you should for the person Michael Laliberte was, the love and compassion he had for the game and for teaching the love of the game to the locals and surrounding areas
Anonymous 2/21/2021 04:24 PM	He was a fighter and the soccer field was his refuge where he always loved to be.
Anonymous 2/21/2021 04:49 PM	I think it would be a great way to honour this young man
Anonymous 2/21/2021 05:32 PM	Very deserving. Michael loved being out on the field and loved his hometown.
Anonymous 2/21/2021 06:30 PM	I feel he deserves the fields to be named after him.
Anonymous 2/21/2021 07:33 PM	We knew Michael and his whole family. Michael was a true inspiration to all and such a wonderful guy. His love of soccer was well known to all. It would be so fitting to name the field after Michael.
Anonymous 2/21/2021 08:48 PM	I think it's a wonderful idea. To remember Micheal and other children
Anonymous 2/21/2021 08:50 PM	A community coming together to do something meaningful to a well deserved young man.
Anonymous 2/21/2021 08:58 PM	I'm a resident of Leamington I think it would be a great honor to Michael
Anonymous 2/21/2021 09:05 PM	Wouldn't feel it meets the standard for naming a local landmark. 3 years dedication I feel wouldn't be enough to justify. Its sad it happened but doesn't meet the threshold.
Anonymous 2/21/2021 09:26 PM	We met Michael and his family at the Peds Oncology clinic in Windsor. Michael was receiving his treatment our daughter Megan receiving hers. Michael would come into the room with his awesome shoes, he was so tall and he would always smile at Megan. Michael's little sister would play with Megan's brother and show him where the good crafts were in the room to pass the time. He was a kind young man and is from a wonderful family. Childhood Cancer steals so much from families and if there is a way to honor this young man, and his family, in a park he loved and longed to play

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in, then we NEED to make this happen! There is no better role model you could choose to represent this park then Michael. Michael amplified a fighting spirit, a love of friends, family and community involvement. Chatham-Kent, you have a very special opportunity to honor Michael! The grief his family faces daily is unmeasurable and never ending, CK, you can bring a some joy to this grieving family. You can forever name a park he loved in his honor. My vote is yes, a million times over, yes please.

Anonymous

2/21/2021 09:42 PM

michael was a really great person and i would love to see his memory live on.

Anonymous

2/21/2021 09:49 PM

The dedication this child gave to the game and the town is no better reason.

Anonymous

2/21/2021 09:59 PM

I've known Michael and his mom for many years..Michael was a strong boy who fought hard till the end..he loved his sports so much I think renaming this would allow his memory to live forever

Anonymous

2/21/2021 10:43 PM

Mike stands as an example of courage over adversity.

Anonymous

2/22/2021 08:22 AM

Michael was an amazing boyfriend and best friend, he was the nicest and smartest person ever and loved soccer. He would love to have people remember him through the sport he loved most. I think this is an amazing idea and would be a great way to remember how hard he fought in his battle.

Anonymous

2/22/2021 08:44 AM

Such a deserving person to name after - I think it would be a huge honour for his amazing family!

Anonymous

2/22/2021 09:17 AM

He was a great person inside and out and he deserves this.

Anonymous

2/22/2021 09:24 AM

I think renaming this park in Mike's honour would be so wonderful. He was an amazing young man. I had the honour of tattooing a very unique piece for his mother. It was a sound wave of Mikes voice.

Anonymous

2/22/2021 09:49 AM

This is a change that needs to happen, this young man was dedicated to soccer and this field specifically.

Anonymous

2/22/2021 10:17 AM

Michael was an amazing kid, both on and off the field. i got to watch him play and i watched as his team came together in support of him through his battle. re naming the field would allow his memory to forever live on.

Anonymous

2/22/2021 11:17 AM

This is a great way to honour Michael. He would love this and his family and friends would find comfort in it.

Anonymous

2/22/2021 12:14 PM

Michael inspired, loved, and was loved by so many people. He should be remembered for the great person he was and the profound impact he made on everyone who knew (or knew of) him. The people I know who knew him

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say that he would've loved this. It would be a great way to remember him

**Anonymous**

2/22/2021 01:23 PM

Beautiful honour

**Anonymous**

2/22/2021 01:43 PM

I think it's a great way to honor a life lost too soon and a strong kid who fought until his very last breath. I also think it's a very appropriate thing to do because he was so invested in the sport!

**Anonymous**

2/22/2021 08:36 PM

I went to school with his mother and I think this would be a great way to show her what impact her son had on the community!

**Anonymous**

2/22/2021 08:39 PM

He was a true fighter and his name is an inspiration to all.

**Anonymous**

2/23/2021 11:08 AM

great idea

**Anonymous**

2/23/2021 02:32 PM

It may be a good cause.... but there are so many good causes and not enough parks, arenas etc to honour everyone.

**Anonymous**

2/23/2021 03:31 PM

Where do we draw the line ? How about others that were active and died ? Naming places after individuals can cause a number of issues including angering others that have done loads for the community

**Anonymous**

2/23/2021 03:54 PM

Should be Wheatley McWheatface Field.

**Anonymous**

2/24/2021 07:50 PM

Every time someone dies will we name something after them if they were involved? It's impossible. And at what point is that person's name moot and we rename it to someone else who died AND contributed a lot of money. Or died in the act of saving someone's life at that location. You get the point. In addition, if some sees the words "Wheatley Soccer Field", they know where it is. Changing to a person's name does not provide that clarity.

**Anonymous**

2/25/2021 07:19 PM

This is an individual who was involved in soccer in the Wheatley area and made a contribution to his local community.

**Anonymous**

2/25/2021 08:28 PM

I thought they said last year they were not naming fields after people when we requested a ball field named after Bob Weeden

**Anonymous**

2/27/2021 09:27 PM

Michael gave everything he had to support Wheatley soccer. From playing to coaching. He never had a defeatist attitude even when his cancer came back. It is the very list we can do for this inspirational young man both on and off the soccer field

**Anonymous**

3/09/2021 02:29 PM

Because you chose to not rename the baseball diamonds at St Clair College after local slo-pitch legend Bob Weeden. How is this any different? Is there



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now a municipal policy?

Anonymous

3/09/2021 10:43 PM

Can't pronounce it

Anonymous

3/10/2021 11:21 AM

Honouring community members are good. If the impact of Michael was enough to have this proposal, I trust that it will represent him well.

Anonymous

3/10/2021 11:24 AM

I think that the naming of the field after proud family of wheatley of many years.

Anonymous

3/10/2021 11:38 AM

He's been a player, coach, referee as soon as he was old enough, and was a dedicated player to the club and a dedicated boy to the town

Anonymous

3/10/2021 11:43 AM

Everyone who dies is important and should be remembered. Renaming places after some and not others is discriminatory to the persons who have battled illnesses and died with no special recognition. Constant Renaming of places will also lead to confusion in an emergency. There are many ways to memorialize someone, this isn't the way.

Anonymous

3/10/2021 11:59 AM

Love that this town will honour one of its children taken too soon

Anonymous

3/10/2021 12:32 PM

Naming places after people causes problems in future when ideas about acceptable behaviour changes and/or more info about the person is discovered.

Anonymous

3/10/2021 03:07 PM

Great way to show support to his family!

Anonymous

3/10/2021 04:37 PM

Many people contribute to the soccer program, and many other community programs and organizations. Naming after 1 person discounts the contributions of others. Maybe name Field #1 Laliberte, field #2 after someone else - spread the acknowledgement around.

Anonymous

3/10/2021 05:55 PM

Love the spirit, but many have dedicated themselves for Wheatley Minor Soccer and even the town. Are we doing the right thing by naming it after Michael.

Anonymous

3/10/2021 07:21 PM

He played soccer there. And even through his cancer treatment. A life lost at a young age. I think it would be an honor. Besides there is nothing special in the name Wheatley Soccer Field.

Anonymous

3/10/2021 08:41 PM

I knew Micheal, but this is an emotional pledge. What about the next amazing kid.? ROI to make the change is not justified in this case. A plaque would be cool paid for by the people who support the family and his memory would be sufficient.

Anonymous

3/10/2021 08:42 PM

Michael was a young man who continually inspired those around him, and naming this field after his legacy is one way of keeping his memory alive.

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**Anonymous**

3/11/2021 09:04 AM

I believe it's a great idea!! We had a friend in Brantford that was very involved with soccer, they renamed the field the George Campbell Soccer Field, it was such an honour and a lot of people showed up for the ceremony!!.. I think it would be a great tribute to someone who got a "kick" out of soccer

**Anonymous**

3/11/2021 12:22 PM

Michael was a great kid. Extremely smart, a great best friend to my nephew who misses him immensely. Such a loss to society. He would have been someone great someday!!

**Anonymous**

3/11/2021 06:55 PM

Michael was a big part of the soccer community

**Anonymous**

3/12/2021 01:47 AM

It would look bad on the town if you didn't.

**Anonymous**

3/12/2021 01:49 AM

It's the right thing to do if you have ever gotten the chance to meet Michael

**Anonymous**

3/12/2021 06:12 PM

Our daughter attended Wheatley Area Public school with Michael. Michael was a kind, quiet member of her class. His class supported him throughout the years as he battled cancer. Renaming the field after Michael would keep his memory alive!

**Anoymous**

3/13/2021 01:35 PM

Yes I am strongly in support of this, but I would like to encourage the need of a commemorative plaque to be added to the site as well. This plaque should detail Michael's story/legacy (to give some premise for the name of the field), and should be donated by the family & main proponents of this application.  
Thanks

**Optional question** (171 response(s), 89 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question