August 15, 2005

His Worship, Mayor Di Ianni
Office of the Mayor
The City of Hamilton
71 Main Street East
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Di Ianni,

Re: Dedication of Highway 403 as “Joseph Brant Parkway”

You will be aware of efforts underway to dedicate Highway 403 from Burlington to Woodstock as “Alexander Graham Bell Parkway.” I believe, however, that a more appropriate dedication of this highway would be made in honour of Joseph Brant or Thyandanegea.

While no one is suggesting any slight toward Alexander Graham Bell, surely everyone would agree that Joseph Brant is himself much more integrally connected to Burlington and the area surrounding the highway. Brant is the founding father of Burlington (we celebrate his memory during the August long weekend) and is credited with the establishment of the Reservation on the Grand River where the town of Brantford and the County bear his name.

Brant fought as a loyal Ally of the Crown and a British military officer during the American Revolution. He unified many New York First Nations peoples who, under his leadership, fought on the side of the Royal Standard, along with many other Loyalists. He is thus the greatest First Nations Loyalist of Ontario and Canada and a great leader of his Mohawk people for whom he acted as spokesman with the British government during their settlement here. His tremendous Christian missionary work among his people led to the building of the Mohawk Chapel, the only Chapel outside the United Kingdom with the status of “Chapel Royal.”

In addition, Highway 403 is truly a “King’s Highway” and what better dedication could be made than in honour of the great Loyalist First Nations Chieftain, Joseph Brant, who served the Crown so well? Burlington, Brantford and Brant County and surrounding areas today stand in testimony to the greatness of the achievements of Joseph Brant-Thyandanegea!

Therefore, I ask you to join me in support for the dedication of Highway 403 as “Joseph Brant Parkway.” Your consideration of this matter will be greatly appreciated and I am available to discuss with you any further comments or questions.

Yours sincerely,

Cam Jackson, MPP
Burlington