

LOCAL HEROES

A look around can tell us a lot about who and what our communities honour.

Maybe you live in a big city where there are all kinds of statues to famous people. Maybe you live out in the country where you don't see monuments very often. But all over Canada, people and events are honoured in ways we don't always notice. Start looking around your area to see who and what has been remembered this way. You're sure to find all kinds of things you may never have paid attention to.



WOULD YOU EVER CHANGE A STREET'S NAME? WHY?

WHAT STREETS AND ROADS WHERE YOU LIVE ARE NAMED AFTER A PERSON? IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HOW THEY GOT THEIR NAMES, ASK AROUND OR VISIT A MUSEUM OR LIBRARY. MANY CITIES ARE QUESTIONING AND CHANGING STREET NAMES. IN 2019, MONTREAL RENAMED AMHERST STREET, ORIGINALLY NAMED FOR A BRITISH GENERAL WHO ENCOURAGED THE KILLING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE. THE STREET IS NOW CALLED ATATEKEN, WHICH MEANS SOMETHING LIKE EQUALITY OR PEACEFUL RELATIONS IN THE KANIEN'KÉHA (MOHAWK) LANGUAGE. IN TORONTO, MANY PEOPLE ARE PUSHING TO RENAME STREETS THAT HONOUR MEN WHO OWNED ENSLAVED BLACK PEOPLE OR UPHELD SLAVERY.

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IF YOUR SCHOOL IS NAMED AFTER SOMEONE, WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM? IF YOU COULD CHANGE THE NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL TO HONOUR SOMEONE, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?



Look around your community for other ways that people are honoured. If a park or arena or pool is named after someone, who is it? What did they do for your town or city?

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This statue of the great jazz pianist Oscar Peterson sits outside the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.



Called "Hommage à Marguerite Bourgeoys," this Montreal statue celebrates the work of this nun and teacher.



IF YOU COULD PUT UP A STATUE TO HONOUR SOMEONE WHO CAME FROM YOUR COMMUNITY, WHO WOULD YOU SELECT? WHY? WHAT WOULD YOUR STATUE LOOK LIKE?