



CITY OF ST. ALBERT  
**ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER**

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**Municipal Naming Committee - Request for Removal of Grandin**

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**QUESTION:**

Review of the name Grandin, for possible removal from all municipal assets.

**RESPONSE:**

**Request:**

In July of 2024, an application was made to remove the name ‘Grandin’ from all municipal assets. The application contained all of the requested components, including 50 signatures of support, and examples where the name ‘Grandin’ had been removed in other Canadian communities. The Naming Committee convened in August to review the submission against the criteria for the removal of a commemorative name within the Municipal Naming Policy.

The request as it was received reads:

*“The Grandin name should be removed as it evokes continued recognition of a residential school system that caused great harm and intergenerational pain and trauma to Indigenous, Metis and Inuit people. Bishop Grandin is regarded as one of the primary individuals responsible for the establishment of the Indian Residential School system in Canada, an institutional regime that has been recognized by the Catholic Church and recently Pope Francis as an act of cultural genocide against indigenous people.*

*It is widely recognized, supported by written documentation, as noted in the TRC report that Grandin led the campaign for establishment and continued funding of residential schools. These schools forced separation of children from their families, communities and sought to erase traditional indigenous language and culture. The City of St Albert had 2 Residential schools: the St. Albert Youville Residential School and the Edmonton Poundmaker residential school. Removal of the Grandin name would be a significant tangible step for COSA towards Truth and Reconciliation”*

Excerpt from the TRC report:

*Bishop Vital Grandin of St. Albert played an important role in shaping the Oblates’ educational thinking. He was convinced that Aboriginal people faced extinction, and doubtful that adult hunters and trappers could be transformed successfully into farmers. He pinned his hopes for the future of Aboriginal people on the education and conversion of children. He proposed boarding schools at which children would spend much of their time outdoors, either at work or*

*play, and would be converted to Christianity, fed local food, and provided with practical skills. Children who went through such an education at a mission school, he felt, would not be able to return to a life on the land. He boasted that the orphans educated at mission schools hated to be reminded of their Aboriginal ancestry.*

Further references to Bishop Grandin from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report can be found in *Attachment 2 – Background Information*.

Information presented, as well as information found in the TRC report, indicated that Bishop Grandin campaigned for residential schools in Canada, and regularly lobbied the federal government for funding of these schools. His idea of boarding schools for Indigenous children, which would teach practical knowledge and trades, was modelled after a juvenile reformatory prison in France which Bishop Grandin had visited.

The name Grandin has become inextricably connected to the residential school system. Regardless of the original intentions, these institutions, and their legacies, have had a negative inter-generational impact on Indigenous Peoples.

It has been determined that the request aligns to the Municipal Naming Policy, Name Removal Criteria, specifically:

Section 40 - Applications for removal of a name from a Municipal Asset will be considered where the name:

- a. Refers to current or historic persons known for their discriminatory views or actions, including committing or perpetuating acts of racism, violence, and/or harm; and
- e. Brings the City of St. Albert into disrepute

Therefore, the Naming Committee recommends to Council that the name “Grandin” be removed from all City Assets.

### **Replacement Names:**

Communications and Public Affairs organized and ran the public engagement for submissions of new names to be considered. The Naming committee reviewed these names on February 28, 2025. The names were considered against the criteria detailed in the Naming Policy, as well as compared to the list of current street names to mitigate repetition.

The naming committee reviewed 94 individual names. The names that were suggested by the public the most frequently were:

- Garden/The Gardens (x28)
  - Including Gardenia (x5)
- Grand (x11)
- Grosvenor (x10)
- Ghostkeeper (x7)
- Goldenrod (x6)

Some names that were suggested are already in use, such as Grosvenor and Gervais.

In addition to the neighbourhood name, the Municipal Assets in question are: Grandin Road, Grandin Lane, Grandin Place, Grandin Nature Park, Grandin Ravine and the Grandin Clubhouse.

An overwhelmingly popular name for the neighbourhood was Garden, or a variation thereof. This name Aligns with St. Albert’s “Botanical Arts City” brand (flora, fauna, natural elements), supports our motto of cultivate life, as well as continues naming theme (i.e., “G” name). Gardens are a common part of family homes, both historically and contemporary, being a place for families and friends to work together, share their bounty, spark conversations and bring people together. Kitchen gardens were often found outside Metis homes, and are a strong cultural influence in St. Albert.

If Council chooses to rename the aforementioned Assets, Council has the option to choose a singular name that will replace all references to Grandin, or to individually rename the identified assets. In addition to Garden, the Naming Committee has identified a short-list of names for Council to use if naming individual assets:

Gadwall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native duck, significant in Indigenous waterfowl hunting traditions</li> <li>• Aligns with St. Albert’s “Botanical Arts City” brand (flora, fauna, natural elements).</li> <li>• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions.</li> <li>• Continues naming theme (e.g., “G” name).</li> </ul>
Gardenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A variation on Garden</li> </ul>
Ghostkeeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long time St. Albert resident and Métis elder Tom Ghostkeeper advised St Albert city officials on Indigenous cultural relations for many years. Ghostkeeper was a co-host at the inaugural National Gathering of Elders in 2017, which saw some 5,000 Indigenous elders gather in Edmonton to share traditions. He was also a member of the provincial Elders Wisdom Circle that helped create Alberta’s Indigenous Cultural Understanding Framework.</li> <li>• This name is on the Names Reserve List, but has not yet been used.</li> <li>• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions.</li> <li>• Historical event or figure.</li> <li>• Reflects diversity (cultural, ethnic, linguistic, gender, etc.).</li> <li>• Continues naming theme (e.g., “G” name).</li> </ul>
Gladstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In recognition of James Gladstone. James was from Alberta's Blood Nation and he was the first senator appointed of aboriginal descent. He was an activist for indigenous interests at a time when indigenous people couldn't vote in Canada (<a href="https://thecanadaquide.com/history/historical-figures/">https://thecanadaquide.com/history/historical-figures/</a>)</li> <li>• James Gladstone was an indigenous senator in Lethbridge Alberta</li> <li>• Gladstone attended the Industrial School in Calgary and was elected President of Indian Association of Alberta in 1949</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions.</li> <li>• Historical event or figure.</li> <li>• Reflects diversity (cultural, ethnic, linguistic, gender, etc.).</li> <li>• Continues naming theme (e.g., “G” name).</li> </ul>
Goldenrod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldenrod, is a herbaceous perennial with up to 120 species that is native Alberta prairie plant. Its small, bright yellow flowers can be found blooming from July into September.</li> <li>• Various Indigenous peoples have used Goldenrod for its medicinal properties. Traditional uses include wound healing, pain relief, as a diuretic, as an anti-inflammatory, and to treat infections.</li> <li>• Grows prolifically in the St. Albert area, including within the Grandin Pond Nature Park.</li> <li>• Is significant to First Nations, Métis, and settlers.</li> <li>• Aligns with St. Albert’s “Botanical Arts City” brand (flora, fauna, natural elements).</li> <li>• Recognizes Indigenous history, culture, or traditions.</li> <li>• Continues naming theme (e.g., “G” name).</li> </ul>
Gooseberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A plant that thrives in Alberta, reinforcing the botanical theme while being unique and evocative</li> <li>• In keeping with the "Migration" artwork in roundabout near the bottom (north end) of Grandin Road and the water fowl at Grandin Pond at the south end of Grandin Road.</li> <li>• Aligns with St. Albert’s “Botanical Arts City” brand (flora, fauna, natural elements).</li> <li>• Continues naming theme (e.g., “G” name).</li> </ul>
Gosling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An infant goose.</li> <li>• In keeping with the "Migration" artwork in roundabout near the bottom (north end) of Grandin Road and the water fowl at Grandin Pond at the south end of Grandin Road.</li> <li>• Aligns with St. Albert’s “Botanical Arts City” brand (flora, fauna, natural elements).</li> <li>• Continues naming theme (e.g., “G” name).</li> </ul>

There are a few naming conventions, which may assist Council in assigning asset names:

- Parks, excluding City Parks, should have the same name as their adjacent roadway (Naming policy section 26).
  - The Nature Park might be well served by having the same name as the adjacent road (currently Grandin Road)
- Recreational Facilities should be named after the park or neighbourhood in which the facility is located (Naming Policy section 29).

- The Grandin clubhouse could receive either the name of the neighbourhood, or Grosvenor, to match the park and adjacent public pool.
- It would be preferential, especially for the provision of emergency services, that the streets in question not receive duplicated names. However, it is recognized that both Garden and Gladstone are used on crescents.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Naming Committee recommends to Council that the name “Grandin” be removed from all City Assets. It has been determined that the request aligns to the Municipal Naming Policy, Name Removal Criteria, specifically:

Section 40 - Applications for removal of a name from a Municipal Asset will be considered where the name:

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The Naming Committee recommends that the neighbourhood be changed to *The Gardens*.

- Some variations of the name are *Garden Ridge, Garden District or Garden Estates*.

The top replacement asset names, as recommended by the Naming Committee, based on their merit and adherence to the Naming Policy are:

- Gadwall
- Gardenia
- Ghostkeeper
- Gladstone
- Goldenrod
- Gooseberry
- Gosling

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