

Town of Orangeville Commemoration Request

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jaime Preston and I have been a resident of Orangeville for over ten years. This past August my partner, Jacob Sawyer, passed tragically in a motorcycle accident, he had been a resident of Orangeville his entire life. Jake attended various public schools in Orangeville and surrounding areas and finished out his academic career in town at Westside Secondary School. Throughout his childhood and up until his passing at 26 years old Jake frequented many spots around town where he forged strong bonds with peers and other members of the community and got himself involved, one of those spaces very much being the Orangeville skatepark. The skatepark inspired him, kept him in shape and outside, and is the focal point of so many of his memories throughout his life. Jake would argue but in my opinion he was quite talented on his skateboard. The connections he made at the skatepark in childhood remained just as strong in his adulthood and each time we showed up there he was welcomed with excitement and open arms, picking up right where he left off with people he'd known his entire life. The sense of community there is like nothing I've ever seen before and Jake was an essential part of that. Jake always walked away from those interactions feeling elated, energised, and unfortunately usually with a sprained ankle. Spending time there taught him about discipline and determination, having to try a trick over and over and over again until he nailed it. He learned about being part of a community and inclusiveness, Jake firmly believed in acceptance and celebrating the differences we see in each other. He used those lessons and became an upstanding citizen and a valued

community member and as he got older he was very much someone for others to look up to. I can say with certainty myself, others his age and people even of his elder idolised Jake in a lot of ways and thought of him when creating goals of their own. I am writing you this commemoration request in hopes that with funds I've raised for Jake we can have something erected at the skatepark in his memory. Jake started out there being a young kid trying to learn a thing or two and he grew into a role model for the next generation of local kids just like himself who seek out spaces to let loose and be outside, he has been deeply impactful on everyone who spends time there and his death has shaken us all. I believe commemorating him there would be exactly the thing he would want and would bring immense comfort to everyone who is missing him so terribly. It would be ideal to construct something that people could actually skate off of so I'm hoping we could work the design into the skatepark somehow as an interactive piece. Knowing Jacob as well as I do I know that he wouldn't so much like being on display and it was always important to him to be useful and add value, so to satisfy us both, I thought instead of just a bench or a plaque I'm proposing we build a new rail and engrave it for Jake. This way he can continue to participate alongside his friends at his favourite place on Earth. I do have permission from his next of kin to take the project on. Please let me know of any next steps that are required or any additional information you may need from me. Below is my personal email and phone number, please feel free to contact me there anytime, I'm excited to discuss ideas moving forward. Thank you in advance.

Jaime Preston

