

Mi'gmaq names will do just fine for islands: city council

As far as Bathurst city council is concerned, tiny islands in the Bathurst Harbour already have names and they will continue to do just fine.

Beresford resident Sebastien Doiron had proposed names for them last year, after indicating to council that they had never been officially named.

However, city councilor Hugh Comeau pointed out last week that the small islands, referred to as islets, were named long ago by local Mi'gmaq people, according to information relayed by Gilbert Sewell of Pabineau First Nation.

"We have to respect the aboriginal people who have lived around here a lot longer than us, and they've already named these islands," said Coun. Comeau, speaking at the information meeting of city council.

Council agreed by consensus that Mr. Comeau would make a formal recommendation to the provincial government to have the Mi'gmaq names for the islands put on record.

Mr. Doiron said in a Letter to the Editor last December that while such entities are officially named by the province, there is a mechanism in place to allow citizens to participate in the naming process, which is how he became involved.

Mr. Sewell, in his own Letter to the Editor, said that in addition to N'nu Minigue, which is better known as Indian Island, the much smaller islets are called Sistpīgataqñjīg, meaning the Three Little Chains.