

Community centre named for former City councillor

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Former Ward 1 councillor Carmen Corbasson may be gone, but her former colleagues are ensuring she won't be forgotten.



Carmen Corbasson

The longtime councillor, who died on March 10 from complications during surgery, will have Cawthra Community Centre renamed in her honour. The decision was made on Wednesday following a unanimous

vote by Council.

Ward 1 Councillor Jim Tovey, who replaced Corbasson on Council following a hard-fought election in 2010, proposed the plan. The rededication ceremony will take place on Dec. 3, Corbasson's birthday.



Jim Tovey

"Everyone in the Ward 1 family was deeply saddened and shocked by the passing of Carmen," said Tovey. "We very much look forward to celebrating her birthday with the renaming."

Ward 2 Councillor Pat Mullin said it's a fitting tribute as Corbasson was instrumental in getting the community centre built in 1999.

Sebastion Patrizio, the former councillor's partner, thanked councillors for the gesture.

"I think she would have been very proud to have the community centre named after her," said Patrizio, who was comforted by several councillors following the discussion.

Ward 4 Councillor Frank Dale described his former colleague as trusting, loyal and hard working.

"We're going to greatly miss her," said Dale. Corbasson, 62, worked for a decade as secretary for her predecessor, Harold Kennedy. When Kennedy retired in 1994, Corbasson ran in the next municipal election and won the seat.

Prior to the decision to rename the community centre, Mayor Hazel McCallion spoke about Corbasson's life in municipal politics. She lauded Corbasson for knowing the ward "inside and out," her great sense of humour and the warmth and compassion she brought to the job.

"While we're all saddened, let's be thankful for the blessing of her life," said McCallion, who also spoke about Corbasson's efforts on Port Credit Arena and Harold Kennedy Park.

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