

Jan Korzekwa

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Lakeview open house honors park pioneer

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Special

On the 35th anniversary of the opening of Ontario Hydro's Lakeview Generating Station, former plant manager Jan Korzekwa was honored for helping to develop Lakefront Promenade Park.

A portion of the Lakeview Trail has been named after Korzekwa, who worked at the Lakeview Generation Station from 1975-83.

His niece, Dr. Marilyn Korzekwa, recalled that it was her uncle's idea to build a park and a walking trail where families could be together.

"He died 13 years ago, but we're so pleased that his vision of families walking and cycling together did not," Marilyn said.

"Jan Korzekwa prided himself on being a family man."

Korzekwa, who suffered a heart attack and died shortly after retiring, often told of the times his family would join him for lunch. They would toss pebbles into the lake and build sand castles next to the plant.

"The family is proud that this trail will be dedicated to him. He died in 1984, but his dream of a park did not," said Marilyn, a swimmer who twice crossed Lake Ontario, in 1983 and again in 1984.

Korzekwa was waiting for her both times as she came out of the water.

Jan always thought modern families don't spend enough time together, said his sister-in-law Irene. He thought a park would help bring families together for play.

Korzekwa's traveled from his homeland in

Poland to Canada in 1952. He had fought in the Second World War at the age of 15 and was captured and placed in a prisoner of war camp. After the war, he earned his engineering degree.

Korzekwa's son Jan Jr., 18, was also on hand for the tribute to his father, who died when he was still a young boy.

"I'm obviously impressed with his accomplishments," Jan said. "It makes me feel that I know him better."

Jan Jr., now lives in Portland, Oregon.

Mayor Hazel McCallion told the gathering at the Lakeview Generating Station that she couldn't think of a more exciting way to recognize Korzekwa.

"He was determined and worked hard with the Credit Valley Conservation Authority to make sure the trail did happen," McCallion said.

The Lakeview Generating Station also hosted an open house on the weekend to celebrate 35 years of service in the community.

It is one of five coal-fired Ontario Hydro generating stations that once provided electricity for the community around the clock. Now it operates about 20 per cent of the time to cover peak use periods.

Former Ontario Hydro Lakeview Generating Station foreman Jan Korzekwa was honored recently for his part in spearheading the drive for the creation of the Lakefront Promenade Park. On hand to accept the tribute to his father was 18-year-old Jan Jr.

