

Springfield Park renamed to honour 'King of Volunteers'

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LENYK, Ron

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When Ron Lenyk's son Terry was still just a boy, the two would often head down to Springfield Park just around the corner from their home on Credit Heights Drive for the popular father-son pastime of playing a game of catch.

It's something he had quite fond memories of as a youth, according to Terry's sister Trina Christie, and remains a cherished part of his childhood.

That's why it's so fitting that Lenyk, the longtime publisher of The Mississauga News who was famously known as the King of Volunteers for his tireless efforts to better the Mississauga community, had that park renamed in his honour during a special ceremony Saturday, Nov. 4. From now on, it will be known as Ron Lenyk Springfield Park.

"We're very honoured and appreciative of the fact the city would do this and I know (my dad) would be very humbled by it," said Christie.

Lenyk, who also spent several years as CEO of the Living Arts Centre, died in 2015 at age 68.

Christie said Lenyk's entire family - including his wife Olga - were touched by the gesture to rename the park after him.

Ward 6 Coun. Ron Starr, who along with Lenyk and Ron Duquette were known around Mississauga as the Three Ronnies, proposed some form of permanent recognition for Lenyk in the city considering his unwavering commitment to community service.

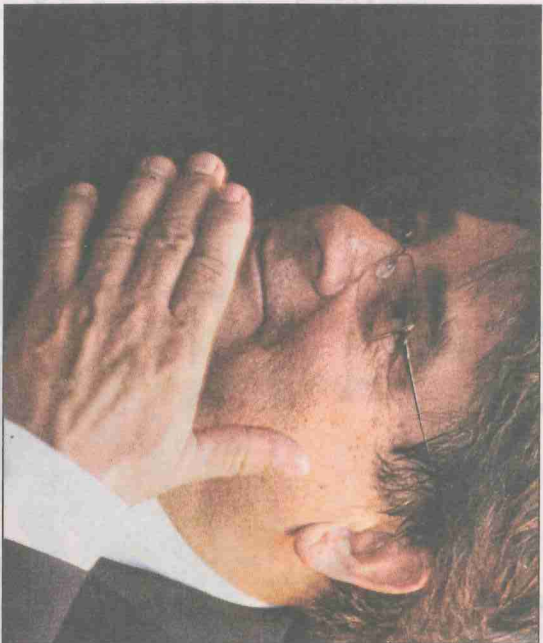
"It's a very fitting tribute and a lasting memorial for Ron and his family," said Starr, who has known Lenyk since the mid-1970s. "Ron was always so in-



involved with the community and he truly loved it."

Starr felt the vibrant park that's bursting with life as families and children happily enjoy the grounds is an appropriate way to recognize the generous and outgoing Lenyk. Not to mention there's also tennis courts there, which is a nice touch considering Lenyk, who won the Ontario university men's singles tennis championship during his Ryerson University days, was an avid tennis player and passionate devotee of the sport throughout his whole life.

Lenyk, who was enshrined in the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame, was also named the sixth most influential person in Mississauga in 2013. He belongs to Legends Row, a yearly program that recognizes and celebrates noteworthy residents who have made contributions to the betterment of Mississauga, the country and, in some cases, the world.



Metroland/Daniel Ho

He spent 31 years as publisher of The Mississauga News and also had a stint as vice-president of Toronto Corporation, The News' parent company. He was named Mississauga's Citizen of the Year in 2001 and also has been given a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mississauga was in his blood as he spent more than five decades calling the city home and was heavily involved with countless charities and organizations throughout the years.

He has been lauded for his work with groups including the United Way of Peel Region and Interim Place and was the first chair of the Mayor's Gala. He sat on the boards of the

Mississauga Community Foundation, Carassauga, Opera Mississauga, the Mississauga Sports Celebrates Dinner and the Mississauga Millennium Committee, among many others. He was also a founding board member for Credit Valley Hospital.

Christie believes the park will be a sentimental reminder of her father's love for the city but also a place she and her brother will be able to bring their children - Lenyk's grandchildren - to celebrate him and also reminisce.

"We will be able to go by and they will know about all his contributions, and how they will always be remembered," she said.

- with files from Louie Rosella



Rob Beintema/Metroland

(Clockwise from top left) Ron Lenyk Springfield Park was officially renamed in a dedication ceremony Saturday, honouring the man who was the former publisher of The Mississauga News, CEO of the Living Arts Centre and a leading member of his community. Ron's widow Olga and their two children, Trina Christie and Terry Lenyk; Ron's children Terry Lenyk and Trina Christie share memories of their dad: Hazel McCallion (left) with Mayor Bonnie Crombie and Councillor Ron Starr with Olga Lenyk and her two children, Trina Christie and Terry Lenyk; Longtime Mississauga News publisher Ron Lenyk.

