



Malton councillor Frank McKechnie lives on the street in his ward which was renamed in his honor. He is celebrating 25 years in office, the second longest consecutive service of any current municipal politician in Ontario . . . For more, see Rob Beintema's column on page 7. (Staff photo by Rob Beintema)

McKechnie Street started as a joke

When Frank McKechnie gives out his address to people, they are always suspicious.

That's because McKechnie lives on McKechnie Ct. in Malton, named after himself.

But he says people seem to have a difficult time accepting that. He'll receive mail with his name spelled correctly, which spells the name of the street in a different way. It's as if people can't accept that a living person could reside on a street named after them.

McKechnie says the street name was the result of a joke.

About a decade ago, Mississauga councillors were discussing the difficulty they were having finding suitable street names. McKechnie suggested that a contest be held in local schools to come up with good names.

Fellow councillor Grant Clarkson then suggested that there was at least one name he knew of which wasn't being used — McKechnie.

He put a motion to change the name of the street on which McKechnie lived from Donlevy to McKechnie and it was passed by council.

The idea was challenged in court by Rudie Jansen, who twice ran against McKechnie in municipal elections. But the name was approved.

McKechnie says many municipal politicians have streets named after them in Ontario, but as far as he knows, he is the only politician who actually lives on a street named in his honor.

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