

From: Mike, Jayne Kennedy
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 2:34 PM
To: Johnson, Aidan
Subject: Re: renaming a city park

Dear Mr. Johnson.

I am a 60 year old lifetime resident of Hamilton in Ward 7, originally from Ward 6. Although you do not represent me on City Council I would like to respectfully ask that you consider a passionate request from me.

I am also a lifetime Tiger Cats fan. Some of my favourite early memories are watching my team play on TV back in the sixties. All 7 of us, my parents, my 4 siblings, and I, would watch every televised game together.

My father, who passed away in 1969, was a huge Russ Jackson fan,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russ_Jackson

due to him being raised in Ward 1.

Mr. Jackson was, and still is, the best Canadian football player ever produced by this city. He went to Westdale Collegiate and then starred at Mac before his CFL career.

His accomplishments in sports have never been properly recognized by this, his native city (possibly because he played his CFL football in Ottawa and not Hamilton?). My purpose in writing you is to hopefully correct this oversight. As he will be 80 years of age this year, time is of the essence if we are to avoid doing this posthumously.

Dave Andreychuk, Pat Quinn and (recently) Harry Howell (all former NHL players) have had city arenas named after them. Ideally re-naming a football stadium after Russ would be consistent with the honours bestowed on these other native Hamiltonians. Unfortunately there are not multiple football stadiums in the city that could be considered for re-naming.

As an alternative, a number of city parks have been named after deserving citizens of this city, for example Kay Drage park. There is a park, with the current name of "Westdale North Open Space" that I submit would be ideal, due to its location in Ward 1, for consideration of re-naming in Russ' honour.

Everything I have ever seen or read about Russ Jackson gives me the impression he is a very humble man. Bestowing such an honour on him would likely mean a lot to him as it would be an unsolicited honour, but also one that he truly deserves.

Being a private citizen, without any connections to either the Parks Board, or city council, I have decided to approach you, the Councilor for the ward, to ask for your help in making this happen.

Thank you for reading, and I hope, in considering my request.

Mike Kennedy