

I am writing this note to make you aware of the death of Mr. Tom McDade. Now, you may have heard of Tom, previously, I'm not sure. But I'm not sure if you have heard of the impact Tom McDade had on the community of Buchanan Park for more than 40 years! Tom was the President of the Buchanan Sports Council. His dedication to the HUNDREDS of children in the community to provide an opportunity to play baseball for the summers was unmatched anywhere else. It wasn't just baseball. He would be out flooding the rink, which sat in the park, right across from his house. He was constantly picking up garbage in the park, raking and lining diamonds and just about anything else he could do to make OUR park look attractive. He took that same pride in his own home, winning many, many Trillium Awards for his amazing lawn and garden. Tom was a mentor and friend to so many. Many times per day, Tom was seen walking his two chihuahuas around the park...his park. Tom oversaw the "goings on" in Buchanan Park for his entire lifetime. Below, I have copied a snippet of his recent obituary to indicate to you his dedication not just to our community, but to our entire city.

*A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Tom's life was a testament to his unwavering dedication, compassion, and love for his family and community. Born on September 30, 1932, in Hamilton, Ontario, Tom excelled in sports from a young age. He played baseball with Crawford Cartage and basketball with the Melrose Tri-M's, Hamilton Mountaineers, St. Pat's Cagers, and the Senior YMCA Squad, earning numerous titles and creating lasting memories in the local sports community.*

*In 1954, Tom's commitment to service led him to join the Hamilton Fire Department, where he served with distinction for 34 years, retiring in 1988. During his time as a firefighter, Tom's bravery and selflessness were recognized with the prestigious British Empire Medal for Gallantry, awarded for his courageous actions in saving the lives of children while risking his own. He was also honoured with the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem,*

*Priory of Canada, and the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal for his long and dedicated service.*

*Beyond his fire service career, Tom was deeply involved in his community. His dedication to helping others earned him the Paul Harris Award from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, recognizing him as an outstanding citizen who made significant contributions to his community. Tom's more than 40 years of service with the Buchanan Park Sports Committee were integral in supporting local athletics and fostering a sense of community spirit.*

Thomas McDade was a real hero. He was also a gentleman who cared greatly about his community and the children who grew up in the Buchanan survey. He successfully lobbied for park improvements repeatedly and without taking no for an answer.

I write this note in hopes of the following for serious consideration.

That Tyne Park (the small parkette overlooking Buchanan Park), be renamed, "The Thomas McDade Parkette."

I'm unsure of what would be needed to make this happen, but there are many people who work (or have worked) at City Hall who would be able to verify Tom's dedication to this community. People like Lou Franco, Clem D'onofrio et al, would all be great resources to speak on this request.

This is actually something that I had hope to have happened while Tom was still alive, for him to witness this dedication to his work over the decades. Sadly, my procrastination got the better of me.

Once again, if there is anything that can (or needs) to be done to have this tribute made, please advise me.

I appreciate you kind consideration to this request.