

# In Memory of Neil Campbell: 1931-1999

**N**eil Campbell passed away on Sunday, January 10th at the Kitchener-Waterloo Health Centre in his 69th year. Neil was diagnosed with lung cancer only six weeks prior. He leaves Eleanor, his wife of 45 years, son David, and daughter Gayle. Neil was predeceased by another daughter Jane in 1981.

Neil worked with the City of Kitchener for 25 years as a Horticulturist and more recently as Manager of Horticulture. He made many contributions to Kitchener with his work in Victoria Park, where he designed many of the floral displays and tree plantings.

Kitchener Parks and Recreation has a horticultural training program based on the Ontario Diploma in Horticulture Extension Education Program at the University of Guelph. This program was Neil's idea and it was incorporated into the Union Job Classification System and the collective agreements. Neil was awarded a

Life Membership from the ODH in Guelph for his contributions in education as his idea has spread through many other categories including cemeteries, golf maintenance, and arenas, as well as through other communities.

Neil had an extensive knowledge of turf maintenance from his work and experience with Ruthven Sod and knew his equipment well. He oversaw an excellent sports field program from that experience.

Neil Campbell could be put in the *most memorable* of people category. His interest in and visit to the Isle of Man to watch motorcycle races, for example, illustrated his passion for life. After he retired, he drove Yonge Street in Toronto (called the longest street in the world) to Rainy River where he had lunch with the mayor. During a fly-in fishing expedition north of Sudbury on a lake with only one other camp, Neil pulled from his tackle box a book of poems by Robert Service and we read poetry around the campfire for sev-

eral evenings. Neil was a master of quips and one-liners. He had a great sense of humour and was quick with his wit amusing many around him.

Neil will not be easily forgotten as he made a significant impact on Kitchener's Parks and in particular Victoria Park where another chapter in the park's rich history is now complete. An oak tree was planted in Victoria Park on May 7th in Neil's memory.

We appreciate Neil's contributions—he truly made a difference. ♦

— Tom Clancy, Kitchener  
Parks & Recreation

*Editor's Note: Neil was an originating member and long-time friend of the Sports Turf Association. He hosted our field day in 1990, attended STA sessions at the OTS, and was committed to athletic field maintenance in the City of Kitchener. We extend our condolences to Neil's family and friends.*



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