

Original Submission - Larson

Contact Information

Name: Val Bonnet

Company:

Address: [REDACTED] Jarvis Drive

Address:

City/Town: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7J [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Naming

Requested name: Larson Lane

Requested use of name: Street

Background Information (Reason for name request):

Everett Larson - Everett Larson - A music teacher who was a proud and humble man who shared his talent and love of music with the people of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. Everett's musical talent touched the lives of thousands over the years and is well-known locally and provincially for his contribution to society. His legacy is a reputation of admiration, respect and 'awe' with a gift he offered to every walk of life. That legacy will never be forgotten and will be carried on for many years to come.

Everett was an army sergeant during WW II, stationed in Whitehorse and served as a drill instructor with the Lord Strathcona regiment. After his discharge, he began the career of his love and life. He taught the violin, accordion, piano, woodwind and many other instruments over the years. Locally, he started teaching at Saskatoon Piano House in 1958, then founded his lifelong business 'Everett Larson's Accordion College'.

Over the years his students ranged in age from 4 to 81 years of age. As his reputation grew, people brought their families from all over the province to be taught by someone who they considered the best in his field. Had it not been for Everett, hundreds of kids would have been roaming the streets. But he gave their lives purpose a sense of pride, love of music and determination of healthy competition within their own age groups. He never saw a child as unable to learn; under his gentle tutelage they were taught at a different pace. In his eyes all children were equal and all deserved a chance to move forward and bring joy to themselves and others. Many thankful parents realized his patience was second to none and witnessed the confidence in their children as it grew. If you counted to 3 and knew your ABC's you could learn music. His youngest student was 4.

Over the years he was an adjudicator at music festivals throughout Canada. Summers were spent as an instructor and student at Kenderdine Music Campus at Emma Lake. He received awards from various organizations and helped students achieve top awards

at national competitions. Trent Bruner, who holds a Master's degree in ethnomusicology from the University of Bergen in Bergen, Norway, wrote his Master's thesis being an ethnomusicological biography on Saskatchewan fiddler and accordionist Everett Larson entitled *Everett Larson - An Ethnomusicological Biography: Music as Community in the Life of a Saskatchewan Traditional Folk Musician*.

He had a love for entertaining whether it be at public or private events for friends, family and local dignitaries. To him it was all the same; his music was his life and his life was music. He always claimed few could be as lucky as him; never having to work a day in their life. Those who personally knew him and others who knew him by reputation, speak with pride of a special man and teacher. His talent of teaching helped further the education of the many who went on to become school teachers, doctors, police officers, lawyers, music teachers and every other walk of life. One of which who encouraged the writing to have a street named after him.

Everett taught until he was 92 years of age. At that time his youngest student was 5 years of age. He died July 2, 2019 at the age of 93. He was laid to rest at the Dovre Cemetery by Fosston, Saskatchewan.

A tribute to his memory and many talents was held by the local musicians community January 5, 2020, at The Bassment in Saskatoon. He will never be forgotten and will be remembered always by so many of us. Although he never set out to compete for awards, he was recognized and awarded by many organizations. To him, his awards and rewards were those thousands of people whose lives he touched.

Please consider his name for a beautiful street in our fair city. He made a huge contribution to the people and city of Saskatoon. He always said he'd never worked a day in his life; his life was music and it was the love of his life.

If you have submitted a person's name, please provide a short biography (Given name, date of birth, place of birth, contributions, awards, achievements or other related information):

Everett Alfred Larson was born April 5, 1926 in Fosston, Saskatchewan to Norwegian parents. He started playing music at age of 4. Everett was an army sergeant stationed in Whitehorse as a drill instructor with the Lord Strathcona regiment. After he was honorably discharged. He was a lifelong music teacher who taught thousands of people throughout Saskatchewan. He received numerous awards including Saskatoon Preschool Foundation Educator of Distinction Award in 2001. At Fiddle Fest in 2008 he was the first recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding contribution to Old Time Fiddling and Saskatchewan Music. He was an annual participant at the Norwegian pavilion at Folkfest. Please read background information for the whole story). Although he never set out to compete for awards, he was acknowledged and awarded by many organizations. (I'm afraid I don't know all of them). To him, his awards and rewards were those thousands of people whose lives he touched

Attachment:

Additional comments: Please read the background information to fully appreciate why this award is being requested. It would be a proud day for Saskatoon to name a street after such an accomplished man. He IS the award. Thank you.

Do you wish to address the Naming Advisory Committee? Yes