

Tina Sweeney's Comments at the Inauguration of the Daisy Peterson Sweeney Park

Thank you all for coming this morning to this beautiful space for community, music, and family and a legacy to Daisy Peterson Sweeney's life contributions.

If you'll allow me, I would like to share a couple of reflections.

Let me start off with my mom's sense of community. Mom built community by using her talents and work ethic in ways that gave people a sense of purpose and belonging, whether it was her leadership at the Negro Community Centre (NCC), or Sundays at Union United Church. If she saw a need or an opportunity to help, she became devoted to it and made positive change.

The French composer Claude Debussy said: "...Music, don't you know, is a dream from which the veils have been lifted. It's not even the expression of a feeling, it's the feeling itself." This explains my mom in action. She was a master teacher. She had such knowledge, craftsmanship of music, and although she is known for her piano and organ playing, she could pick up almost any instrument and play it or use it as a teaching tool. Often, she would use low-cost instruments to make sure as many young people as possible could be included. If you wanted to learn music, she welcomed you. She taught with ukuleles, tambourines, trumpets, French horns and recorders. And so, Debussy did say it well. She had the 'feeling itself' of music.

And her love of music... I can't express in words. But Opera was one of her favourite genres, and I would often wake up to her playing opera records or on radio throughout the house. These are lasting and beautiful memories.

I'll conclude my reflections by sharing insights into my mom, and her commitment as a mother and her devotion to family.

If you have seen our family website, daisypetersonsweeney.ca, you will see the site mentions (9) children in a blended family of some of her own children, some fostered and some adopted.

I won't tell all our treasures of how we came to be a family, but I will briefly and publicly thank my mom for her kindness and generosity. You see at an age in my mom's life, when she should have been thinking about herself and enjoying the fruits of her labour, she helped and mothered one more child. A six-year-old, needing a home – me – and I'm forever grateful for her strength and her love.

A comment from the celebrated Oliver Jones in a video remembering Mom, he said, "I think her greatest gift was in making a child feel special... he went on to say, "even those who didn't have talent."

Thank you Mom. Thank you to my siblings for their tireless work in seeing this endeavor through, not everyone was able to attend in person but they all express their gratitude to you everyone, my brother Essley Sweeney, my sister Dorothea-Joan Sweeney-Roots, my brother Kenneth Hemmerick (he is here today) and my sister Judith Sweeney (who is also here), and Sylvia Sweeney.

The family would like to give special recognition and say thank you, to **Mr. Oliver Jones**, for his many and ongoing contributions in support of Mom.

The park is now officially open, to enjoy the Massimadi festival and chess clubs, and all are welcome!

Thank you to the beautiful city of Montreal, to **Mr. Denis Coderre** who originated the idea of naming a street after Mom and to each city official involved in honouring her. Thank you Mayor of Montreal, **Valérie Plante** and Borough Mayor for Le-Sud-Ouest, **Benoit Dorais** and their teams for extending the legacy to include this park.

This beautiful park is a space for community, music, and family and a legacy to Daisy Peterson Sweeney's life contributions!

Thank you

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