

McTavish Awards
2018/2019



**ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' FEDERATION
DISTRICT 11 THAMES VALLEY**

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2018/2019 McTavish Award Nomination Package

Enclosed please find the **2018/2019 McTavish Award Nomination Package**: including a Fact Sheet about this award, a Nomination Form, an Award Recipient Information Form, a Sample Script and biographies of Ernie & Ted McTavish. The selection process is described below. If your Branch has an Awards Representative, please copy and share this information with him/her. Each McTavish Award recipient and guest will be invited to attend the awards reception dinner that will take place on **Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at Clarke Road S.S.**

Once the recipient of the McTavish Award is selected, a script needs to be written and digital photos of the recipient must be taken. The District Office staff creates certificates and a PowerPoint presentation for the ceremony. Ensuring that all of this is done requires that critical time-lines be adhered to.

Procedures/Tasks to be completed:

- Make the McTavish Fact Sheets and Nomination Forms available to the staff and student body in order to solicit nominations of suitable **graduating** students.
- Convene a meeting of the Selection Committee, consisting of the Branch President (or designate), the Awards Rep (if your Branch has one), and at least one other teacher. This committee will interview each potential winner and select the **ONE** student who best exemplifies the award criteria as the recipient of the McTavish Award.
- Complete and submit the "Award Recipient Form" to the District Office by **Thursday April 18th** so that invitations can be sent to the recipient and the principal.

Script and Digital Photos:

- Using the information on the "Nomination Form(s) and the Sample Script provided as a model, write a script about the recipient of this award. Take a minimum of 8-10 digital photos of the recipient to illustrate the sorts of things described in the script. **One of the photos must be taken of the student with the school sign or something to indicate the school.** Submit these photos with the script by email to osstf11@execulink.com by no later than **Friday, May 10th, 2019.**

Other information:

- Invitations to the Awards Dinner will be sent to the **Award Recipient and his/her guests** and to the **Principal** by the District Office.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Calvert-Hamilton at the District Office (519-659-6588). Thank you for your help in making the annual McTavish Awards a success!

Basic Philosophy

- In 1973 the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in London, established the McTavish Award in memory of the late Ernie McTavish, whose biography is included in this package. In 2009, the award name was changed to the McTavish Award in order that Ernie's son, the late Ted McTavish, could also be honoured. We are pleased to promote through this award the fine ideals of both Ernie and Ted McTavish within Thames Valley Secondary Schools.
- One of the major aims of this achievement recognition program is to reward those students who best exemplify the philosophy of the educational system in which they are a part. In this particular case, the basic philosophy of our educational system is to enable each student to attain the maximum development of his/her whole person that is the physical, mental, emotional, social and moral sides of the individual.

Objectives of the Award

- To recognize outstanding individuals in area secondary schools who have faced obstacles in their path and who have overcome these challenges.
- To promote the idea of freedom with responsibility.
- To increase interest in the concept of well-rounded education.
- To perpetuate the name of Mr. McTavish and the excellence of his work in education.

Nomination Procedure

- Each secondary school chooses a student from students nominated by the staff, student body and/or student council. The Branch President or designate will be responsible for establishing a McTavish Award Selection Committee from within the school. The purpose of this committee will be to interview each potential winner and select a final school winner who best exemplifies the criteria. Please note this student will not always be the school's "shining star".
- The criteria for nomination/selection are:
A student who is in the final, graduating year of his/her program at a TVDSB Secondary School, and who is either post-secondary bound or strongly employable.
- A student who has done his/her best while overcoming some significant difficulties.
- A student, who perhaps has had to do part-time work while in secondary School, and therefore has not been able to participate in as many extracurricular activities as others.
- The intent is to recognize a worthy, striving student who has contributed to the school and community, but has not been, nor will likely be, the recipient or nominee of other awards.
- The Selection Committee in each school should adhere as closely as possible to the selection criteria and it is strongly recommended that a student be chosen who has not won a major award in his/her graduating year. It will be the responsibility of the Selection Committee to complete the script including personal comments - likes and dislikes - and to take digital photos so that preparation of the PowerPoint presentation can be more personalized.

How the Recipients will be honoured

- The winner from each secondary school and his/her guests and principal are invited to an Awards Dinner.
- The winner receives a Chapters Gift certificate, a memento package, a framed certificate and a group photo.

Biography of Ernie McTavish

Reflections upon a life greatly lived can take on the nature of a legend, and legends can grow with the passage of time and the dimming of our memories. But not with Ernie McTavish!

From his first assignment as a teacher of Physical Education and Geography at London South Collegiate in 1946, Ernie's dedication to strong principles and greatness of spirit prevailed in his career and touched those with whom he came in contact. His strong, positive spirit remains with those who worked with him and learned from him. It is as though his presence was but a moment ago and no embellishment is possible, let alone necessary, to express his impact.

His leadership was recognized early in his elevation to Head of the Physical Education Department at South in 1947. To his students, he became known fondly as "Mr. Mac". Although a large man with a booming voice, "Mr. Mac's" constant smile inspired confidence. Strong ethics dominated his thought and actions and his caring nature endeared him to others. He believed strongly in the value of hard work and self-discipline, and his warm, supportive manner inspired others to adopt his attitudes. Ernie never criticized; he had too strong a faith in the fundamental goodness of others. When disaster struck, as it did in Mr. Mac's life, he displayed unprecedented equanimity.

In his role as Vice Principal at GA Wheable Secondary School, to which he was appointed in 1961, and during his tenure as Principal at Westminster Secondary School, which began in June, 1964, Ernie McTavish established himself as a principled leader who worked with his staff to solve their problems, but more importantly, to support them in their challenges. His positive, good-humoured, and confident manner inspired an unquenchable enthusiasm to achieve and this same spirit in 1967 imbued his tenure as Principal of H.B. Beal Secondary School. Often professionals distinguish between the demands of career and personal life but such a distinction for Ernie was impossible. The ethics ruling his private life governed the practice of his profession, admitting no compromise and yet his caring practical wisdom could achieve solutions satisfactory to both sides in controversial issues. In the conduct of his office as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum from January, 1970 and as Superintendent of Operations from June, 1970, he became known as "Mr. Integrity". We may have lost his physical presence on January 15, 1973 but his legacy lives on.



Biography of Ted McTavish

Ernie McTavish's legacy lived on in his son Edward (Ted) McTavish who followed in his father's footsteps as an educator. Ted dedicated his career to education, first as a teacher and then as a principal in Thames Valley. Beyond the school system, Ted was a devoted father and family man and a dedicated church member.

As an educator, Ted believed that it was important to embody the qualities that we value, to transmit those values to students. We all learn through example. He believed that students are so much more than test scores. He believed that the "hidden curriculum" involved nurturing the social and moral intelligence of each student. His leadership was strongly based on ethical behaviour. He was a great believer in second chances for students and staff alike. In his view, human beings are both fallible and redeemable. He never gave up on anyone.

Ted's greatest strength was his ability to create a nurturing, caring community where young people could thrive. Ted always put people first, and he valued everyone for the role they played. He understood the importance of respect for each member of the school community. Ted fostered an atmosphere of trust, where people knew they were working together for a common goal. He always kept his office door open to everyone. That open door was a daily reminder that he was the kind of leader who also had an open mind and heart.

The measure of Ted's success as an educator is best gauged in terms of the impact he has had on others. In the face of a daunting medical diagnosis, Ted modelled courage, and those around him drew strength from his example. The attendance at his funeral was symbolic of his popularity and the number of lives he touched. His sister Kathy said later, "The number of people that said to me, 'I would have done anything for him,' you know...I think it was because he would have done anything for them." In the words of Ted's wife and life partner of thirty years, Julia McTavish, "He just taught us a lot about life. He was such a good person. He inspired us all." In the words of his physician, who delivered his eulogy, this was Ted's final lesson: "It's the small acts of kindness we do day to day that have an impact on each other and for these you will be remembered". A former student once mentioned how she was a self-described 'lost' student, but that she had managed to finish high school because Mr. McTavish believed she could do it. She succeeded because someone cared about her. One day, Ted mentioned how happy he was to see a former student, a pregnant teenager in high school at the time, now a nurse who gave him chemotherapy. I'm sure the family heard many stories of how his acts of kindness over the years affected others. Yes, kindness travels. Ted has sown many seeds of kindness in his all too brief lifetime and these acts of kindness will never be forgotten.



**ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS'
FEDERATION DISTRICT 11 THAMES VALLEY**

McTavish Award Nomination Form

Instructions:

- Please fill in as much information as possible under each area below, keeping in mind the following selection criteria. A suitable nominee is:
- A student who is in the final, graduating year of his/her program at a Secondary School, and who is either post-secondary bound or strongly employable.
- A student who has done his/her best while overcoming some significant difficulties.
- A student, who perhaps has had to do part-time work while in Secondary School, and therefore has not been able to participate in as many extra-curricular activities as others.
- The intent is to recognize a worthy, striving student who has contributed to the school and community, but has not been, nor will likely be, the recipient or nominee of other awards.
- Please note that the nominee may wish some information to be kept confidential. Such requests should be noted in section "G", and confidentiality must be respected.

Nominee: _____

Nominated by: (Please print) _____

- School Involvement
- School Participation/Effort (do not include marks)
- Community Involvement
- Work Experience
- Future Plans (education/career)

Difficulties Overcome:



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McTavish Award Recipient Information Form

As soon as the selection committee has made its selection, please fill in and submit this form to the District Office. Please ensure that the information about the award recipient is neatly/clearly printed in dark ink. Upon receipt of this page, the District Office will send out the invitations to the school. **The deadline for the script and digital photos is no later than Friday, May 10th, 2019.**

Script and Photos:

Please provide a written script (150-200 words), and 8-10 digital photos to accompany the script. The scripts are read for each school recipient, so in the interest of time at the awards evening, kindly adhere to the word limit.

Having taken into consideration the criteria for this award, the Selection Committee of the above-named school hereby nominates _____, presently completing his/her graduating year, for the McTavish Award.

NAME TO APPEAR ON CERTIFICATE: (PLEASE PRINT)

SCHOOL

DATE

Selection Committee Chairperson: _____

Members of Selection Committee: _____

Fax this form (519-659-2421) or scan and email to osstf11@execulink.com

**ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS'
FEDERATION DISTRICT 11 THAMES VALLEY
McTavish Award Sample Script**

Instructions: Using the information on the “Nomination Form(s)” and this Sample Script as a model, write a script about the recipient of this award. **The script must be typed in paragraph form, signed by the recipient to acknowledge that all information is accurate and may be read out loud, and submitted with the digital photos to the District Office no later than Friday, May 10th, 2019.** (The accompanying photos should “illustrate” information included in the script.)

_____ is this year’s award winner from _____ .

Upbeat, well liked, respected by both students and staff. That’s how _____ teachers see her in her daily activities at school. _____ is a peer tutor in the grade 10 cosmetology class and as such her teacher recognizes her as a real asset to the class.

A good organizer, _____ juggles attending school full time with two part time jobs. Between a local subway shop and a hair styling salon, she works 15-25 hours per week, with some occasional babysitting on top of that.

When _____ lived in London, she was a junior leader at Hillcrest Public School during a summer recreation program.

Pursuing her desire to have a career in the cosmetology field, _____ completed all the requirements for admission to programs such as Marvel and began working in a hair styling salon. She soon developed a severe case of bursitis in both her hips and her doctor advised her not to continue in this type of full time work, so basically she was forced to change direction.

_____ has overcome other challenges in her personal and family life that could have interfered with her school. But she has maintained a positive attitude about her future. _____ is an unpretentious young woman who attempts to achieve as well as she possibly can in all elements of her life. She has recently registered to train as a legal assistant through correspondence with the Stratford Career College.

Congratulations _____ , please come forward and receive your award

I have read and approve the above script

Student’s signature