

Scott Walton and Jessica Walton (McPherson)

215 Germain St
Saint John, NB, E2L 2G5

Date: October 24, 2025

Mr. Roger Nesbitt

Chair, District Education Council
Anglophone South School District

Subject: Request to Rename Rugby Field in Honour of David R.W. McPherson

Dear Mr. Nesbitt,

I am writing to respectfully request that the rugby field located at Hazen White School in Saint John be officially renamed “**Dave McPherson Field**” in honour of the late **David R.W. (“Mac”) McPherson**, whose lifelong dedication to rugby and youth development profoundly shaped the sporting culture of Saint John and New Brunswick.

For over five decades, Dave McPherson was a pillar of rugby excellence, mentorship, and community spirit. He built programs, inspired generations of players, and elevated the sport throughout the province. His influence extended from local school rugby to international engagement, leaving a legacy recognized by peers, former players, and sporting institutions alike.

Mr. McPherson’s contributions include:

- Coaching and building the **Saint John Trojans RFC** into one of Atlantic Canada’s most respected rugby programs.
- Guiding teams to **19 New Brunswick senior division championships, 13 Maritime senior titles**, and the **Atlantic Cup senior A crown**.
- Leading his teams to national recognition, including the **Trojans’ Dynasty Team (1987–95)** being voted *Saint John’s Team of the Century*.
- Mentoring over **76 players** who went on to coach or play at advanced levels, forming an enduring “Coaching Tree” across **seven high schools** in the region.
- Influencing generations of athletes who now contribute to rugby communities across Canada, the United States, Central America, and as far as New Zealand.

Beyond statistics, Dave McPherson embodied the true spirit of sport — discipline, integrity, camaraderie, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. He inspired not only rugby players but also better citizens and community leaders. His impact was recently recognized through his nomination to the **New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame**, supported by an extensive collection of testimonials from former players, coaches, and media professionals.

Renaming the field in his honour would ensure that his legacy continues to inspire future generations of students and athletes — a permanent tribute to a man who built programs, fostered character, and championed the values that define school and community sport in New Brunswick.

Thank you for considering this request. I would be honoured to provide any additional information, including supporting letters or documentation from the Hall of Fame nomination package, to assist in your review.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Walton (McPherson)

Daughter of David McPherson

Scott Walton

Son-in-law of David McPherson