JOSEPH (JOE) LUCKI

Detective (Transcona Police)

Detective Sergeant #213

Written by John Burchill, President
July 18, 2024. Winnipeg Police Museum



Joe Lucki, who turns 90 this fall, was born and raised in North Point Douglas, the son of Ukrainian immigrants. He attended Norquay School and graduated from St. John's Technical High School in 1952.

After finishing school, Joe apprenticed as a machinist for the next five years with the Canadian National Railway in Transcona. Two years after finishing his apprenticeship, he was laid off. While he was offered a job in Montreal, he chose to stay close to his roots.

Fortunately, the Town of Transcona were looking for a constable, and Joe applied for a position. After being interviewed by Mayor Paul Martin and Council he was hired the same day – July 1, 1959.

At the time, Transcona was a small town that grew up around the railway. The town was incorporated in 1912 with a single officer, and by 1959 there were nine officers (including Joe). When Transcona obtained its City Charter in 1961, there were eleven officers.



Transcona Police Force, 1961. From Transcona, 50 Years of Progress, p. 101.

Like many of the small municipal departments, the police officers in Transcona were a jack of all trades. All the police officers, were also the fire fighters, supported by a voluntary fire brigade of ten members. For this reason, the police officers were all required to live in Transcona. Not only did this ensure every officer knew their community, but it also ensured a quick response by the small department to any emergency like a fire.

When Joe started with the Transcona Police, they were situated in a municipal building at 401 Pandora Avenue West. The building opened in January 1956 and served as the council chambers (upstairs) and the operational base for the Police, Fire and Public Works and the Transcona Parks Board until 1968, when a new Public Safety Building was opened at 730 Pandora Avenue West. The council chambers at 401 Pandora Avenue doubled as the courtroom where the police officers were also the prosecutor for all municipal and provincial offences, as well as other summary matters such as fatality inquests.



Transcona police courtroom and council chambers, 401 Pandora Avenue West.
Sergeant Hugh Chudley is on the right. Judge Charles N. Rubin is under the picture of the Queen.
Transcona News, January 17, 1963. Courtesy, Transcona Museum, TH99.38.1.58.

While the building at 401 Pandora Avenue had three holding cells, anyone arrested and remanded into custody on a criminal charge was taken to the old Vaughan Street Jail in downtown Winnipeg. Like today, the police officers in Transcona were also responsible for taking any individuals for an involuntary psychiatric assessment to Winnipeg's General Hospital (Health Sciences Centre). These transports were often done alone as the officers worked one-man vehicles. Less well known, is that the police were also responsible for swearing out warrants

and detaining anyone (again by themselves) under the Public Health Act that refused to be examined for Tuberculosis. [1]

As there were no public ambulances in Transcona (although there were two private services that operated in the larger metropolitan area), the police officers were trained in first aid and had access to medical equipment like resuscitators and a Scott Air Pak self-contained breathing apparatus for both fire and medical rescues. Later a rescue wagon was purchased for the department by the Kinsmen Club in 1966 that carried needed supplies. The Scott Air Pak also proved beneficial to Lucki when he personally entered the smoke-filled Apollo Theatre, on June 20, 1961, to locate the source of a fire and fell through some loose flooring (there was another serious fire at the same building eight years later in 1969).



Transcona police-fireman, Constable Monty Stolar assisting Constable Ed Zabowski putting on a Scott Air Pak before entering a burning house on Victoria Avenue West. Constable John Matheson looks on while holding a fire hose. Page 1, Transcona News, December 17, 1964. Courtesy, Transcona Museum, TH99.38.86.6.

As the police were always the first to arrive at any serious incident, such as a fire, traffic accident, or medical emergency, they often transported people to hospital in their cruiser cars.

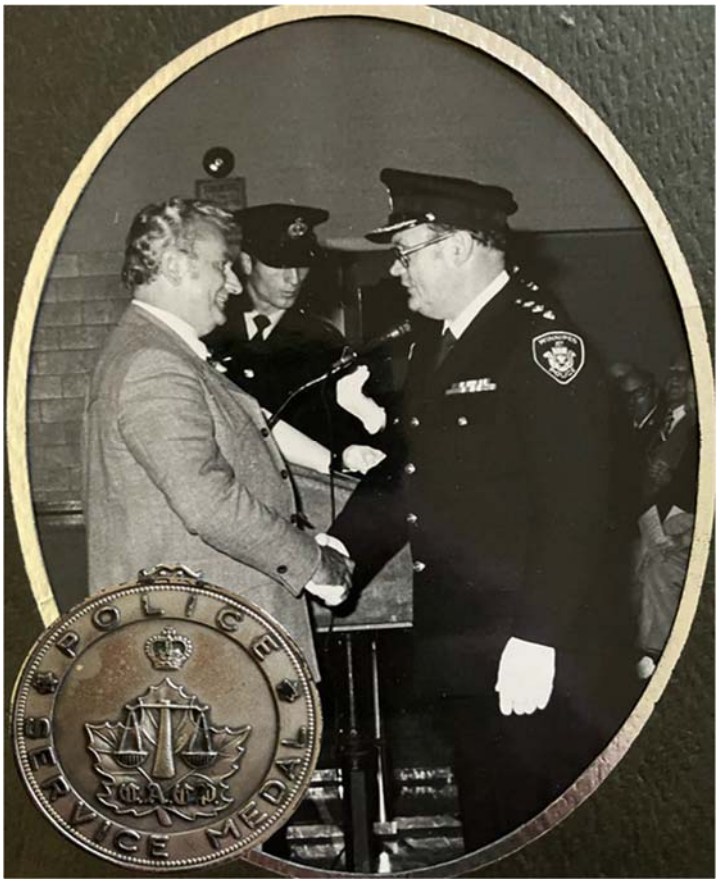
[1] Tuberculosis is a serious disease can be fatal if left untreated. It is caused by bacteria that first settle in the lungs and throat and can be spread through the air when a person who has an active infection coughs or sneezes. While most people who encounter someone with active Tuberculosis won't become ill, because their immune system can stave off the infection, long term exposure can but people at risk of getting the disease. Today, a Public Health Team tries to manage individuals and the spread of Tuberculosis in the community.

At night, one of the jobs as town constable was to walk the main street beat (Regent Avenue), checking all business properties to make sure they were secure. One interesting duty that Lucki recalled was to service and clean the revolver kept by the manager of the of the local bank in his desk drawer.

In the days before automated banking, businesses and banks kept large amounts of cash on hand and were the targets of armed robberies. Lucki said they were always wary of criminals carrying nitroglycerin on them for use in blowing safe doors. As nitroglycerine was very unstable, they had to be careful when searching certain known criminals.

Lucki was promoted to Detective with the Transcona Police in 1971, a rank he held through amalgamation with the Winnipeg Police until his retirement in 1989. Retired Deputy Chief Joe Gallagher, who worked as a Detective alongside Lucki after amalgamation, then oversaw him as the Inspector and Staff Inspector of the Crime Division, told me that "*Joe was methodical and tenacious detective. He was excellent at his job, a gentleman with the public, and a skilled interviewer.*" Aside from work, one of the things that Gallagher remembered most about Lucki was "*he loved of Transcona*".

In 1979 Lucki was presented with the Police Exemplary Service Medal, which recognizes any police officer who has served for 20 years or more in an exemplary manner, characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency.

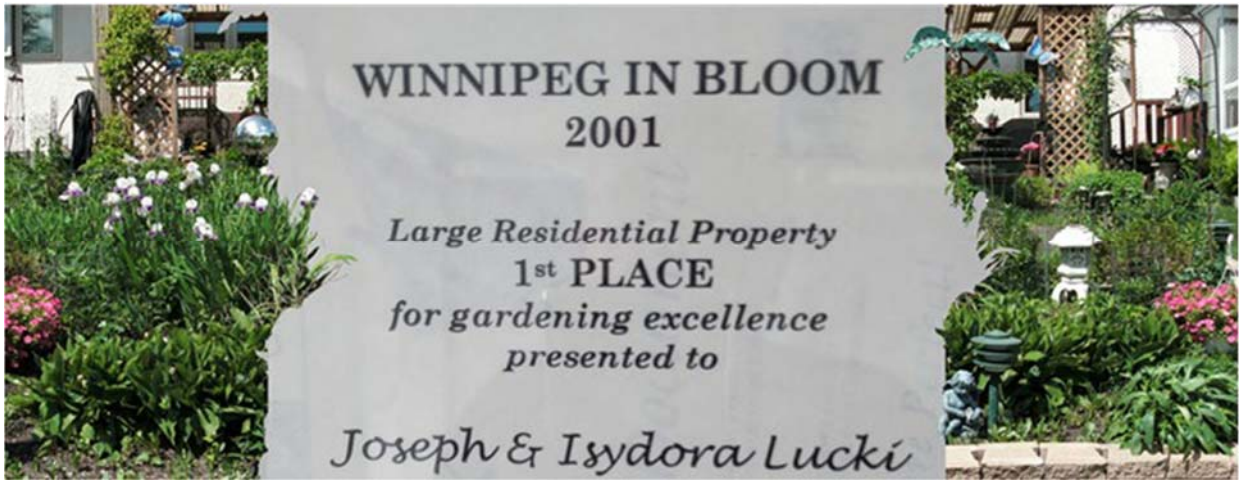


Joe Lucki being presented with the Police Exemplary Service Medal by Deputy Chief Ray Wilson, 1979
Courtesy Joe Lucki

On January 28, 1989, Lucki's only daughter, Patricia, along with her friend Kerri Campbell, was killed by a drunk driver at McMeans and Day, not far from their home in Transcona. The driver, who fled the scene on a snowmobile he had on the back of his truck, was later arrested and found to have a blood alcohol concentration of 270 mg%, well over the legal limit. Shortly before her death Patricia, who had a degree in Early Childhood Development, had returned from Indonesia where she had worked with Canadian Crossroads International and Amnesty International, helping the physically and visually handicapped.

Patricia's death devastated the family. It would still be a few years before the Winnipeg Police hired its own staff psychologist to help members (and the department) understand and deal with post traumatic stress, and Lucki decided to retire after 30 years of service.

Joe and his wife, Isydora, who passed away last year, took to community work in their retirement. They loved gardening and sought to beautify their neighbourhood, growing many plants, flowers and vegetables in their yard. They competed for many years in the annual Winnipeg in Bloom competition, winning first place for best large property in 2001 for Gardening Excellence. [2]



Winnipeg in Bloom, 2001. First Place Certificate surrounded by actual flowers from Joe and Isydora's garden. Blended pictures by Ayshia Burchill, courtesy Joe Lucki.

As a sports enthusiast, playing hockey and baseball in his younger years with the Transcona police, Joe also volunteered for the Pan Am Games, Canada Games, Indigenous Games, and for 25 years he was a Fan Ambassador for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Kelly Keith, Director of Security and Event Day Staff for the Winnipeg Football Club, told me that "*Joe smiled and greeted people. He truly represented the word Ambassador. This is a volunteer position, which as he diligently did for 25 years. We use Fan Ambassadors all over the Stadium doing various things all of which result in the fan having a better game day experience!*"

[2] Isydora was born in Ituna, Saskatchewan, in 1935 and moved with her family to Transcona in 1942. She married Joe at the old St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Transcona in 1959. Isydora worked in the office at the Woolco store in Transcona and volunteered for many years with the Women's League at St. Michael's Church.



Joe Lucki with Grey Gup, 2015. Winnipeg Stadium. Courtesy Joe Lucki.

On May 1, 2024, Russ Wyatt, Councillor for Transcona, posted on Facebook that he would like to re-name Kildonan Meadows Park to "*Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park*" for their contribution to their community. Hopefully we will see that happen !



Joe Lucki with City Councillors Chambers, Eadie, Duncan, Wyatt, Lukes and Dobson, 2024.
Used with permission, Office of Councillor Russ Wyatt

Gardening grows from grieving process to joy for award winners

By Andrew Buck

It started as a grieving process; but gardening has grown into a lifelong passion for Isydora and Joseph Lucki.

The Luckis are the winners of the 2001 Winnipeg in Bloom Award for the best large residential garden in Transcona. While Isydora spends many hours in the garden each day, 11 years ago she started turning earth to help with a healing process.



photo by Andrew Buck

Joseph and Isydora Lucki cultivate gardens in Transcona and Arizona.



In 1989, the Lucki's only daughter was killed after being hit by a drunk driver.

"We moved here in 1991," said Joseph, a former police officer. He retired shortly after the incident, and they left their Winona Street home.

"We couldn't live there anymore after the accident," said isydora. "I got into gardening as part of my grieving process. It helped. But now it's not as easy with all the mosquitoes," she laughed.

The new flowers at their current Kildonan Meadow Drive home, which backs onto a pond, "are like new life growing," added Joseph.

When the Luckis moved to their new home 10 years ago, it was a far different scene than the sprawling greenery it is today.

"To think that 10 years ago this was all bare virgin land," said Joseph.

Many different varieties of flowers are only part of their garden. The Luckis also grow cucumbers, tomatoes and even grapes.

"One year we were spitting watermelon seeds into the garden," Joseph said. "Later that year we had Texas-sized watermelons."

The calming effect of working with nature appeals to the Luckis.

"More people seem to be getting involved with flowers," said Joseph. "It seems to provide relaxation after retirement."

The couple spends a considerable amount of time in Arizona, where they have a trailer and, not surprisingly, a garden.

"The wildflowers down there are the nicest thing you'll ever see," said Joseph. "People think cactii are just a pile of prickly plants, but their flowers are beautiful."

Several years ago the Luckis won an award from herbicide company Eco Green, which treated their grass. The award recognized the Lucki's yard as the most beautiful out of all of the company's city-wide clients.

Ever since that award, the Luckis have entered Winnipeg in Bloom and won a runner-up award last year. Joseph said the container and planter gardens in their front yard clinched it for them.

Geraniums

"It's mostly geraniums out front," said Isydora. "We get so much sun out there, it's pretty hard for flowers to grow."

The real jewel of the Lucki's garden is in the backyard. Rock planters line the waterline, and the yard also features a rock garden and fountain.

"I like the water," said Joseph. "I like to sit here and see the water flowing.

"It's too bad our summers aren't longer," he says. "First it was too cold for the plants, then it rained too much, and now the heat – poor plants."

"Years ago, my mother was a gardener," said Isydora. "I always had a few flowers.

Gardening is something she obviously enjoys doing – something she says she has had to do to keep her mind off the accident.



June 4, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of renaming Kildonan Meadows Park to "Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park".

The Lucki family have a long history of service in Transcona. Mr. Lucki was a first responder in the City of Transcona, serving as both police officer and Firefighter. He retired after his 24-year-old daughter's death from a drunk driver.

In his retirement, Joe and his wife Isydora helped to beautify the Community of Transcona resulting in the winning of the 2001 Winnipeg in Bloom Award for best residential garden. They started gardening as part of the grieving process. "It helped" said Isydora, Joe added new flowers "are like new life growing". They were also recognized by Eco Green. The award for the Lucki's yard which was the "most beautiful out of all the company's city-wide clients."

It only seems appropriate to rename the park that is located by Mr. Lucki's House from Kildonan Meadows Park to Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park. What a deserving legacy it would be.

Sincerely,

Nello Altomare.

Nello Altomare
MLA for Transcona

Nello.Altomare@yourmanitoba.ca

Constituency Office: 127 Regent Avenue W, Winnipeg, MB, R2C 1R1 | Phone: 204-594-2025 | Fax: 204-594-2027

City Councillor St. Norbert – Seine River

June 25, 2024

Dear Councillor Russ Wyatt

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the renaming of *Kildonan Meadows Park* to **"Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park"** in honor of Joe Lucki a remarkable individual who will be celebrating his 90th birthday this year. As a dedicated police officer (and I understand volunteer fire fighter) as who has served our community from 1959 through to his retirement in the late 80's, Joe Lucki exemplifies the values of service, integrity, and commitment that our community holds dear.

Throughout his 30+ year career with the Transcona and Winnipeg Police Department, Constable Lucki made numerous contributions to public safety and community well-being. His dedication to upholding the law and ensuring the safety of our citizens has left an indelible mark on our community. Constable Lucki not only served with distinction but also mentored countless younger officers, instilling in them the principles of honor and duty that have become the cornerstone of our police service.

Renaming *Kildonan Meadows Park* to **"Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park"** would be a fitting tribute to Joe Lucki's enduring legacy. This gesture would not only celebrate his milestone birthday but also serve as a lasting reminder of his contributions to our community. It would be a place where future generations can learn about and be inspired by the life of a dedicated public servant who spent three decades protecting and serving our city.

Joe Lucki has always been an active and respected member of our community, participating in numerous civic activities and contributing to a sense of unity and cooperation among residents. The renaming of the park would honor not only his professional achievements but also his role as a beloved community member who has touched the lives of so many.

I strongly urge you to consider this proposal and recognize Joe Lucki in this meaningful way. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued efforts to celebrate and preserve the rich history of our community.

Warm Regards,

Markus Chambers
A/Deputy Mayor City of Winnipeg
City Councillor / St. Norbert Seine River Ward
Chair, Winnipeg Police Board

A/Deputy Mayor City of Winnipeg
City Councillor for St. Norbert – Seine River
Chairperson, Winnipeg Police Board

Winnipeg Police Service | Service de police de Winnipeg

"A Culture of Safety for All" « Cultiver la sécurité pour tous »

May 21st, 2025

Russ Wyatt, Councillor
Transcona Ward
Council Building, City Hall
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB. R3B 1B9

Re: Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park

Last year, 2024, was the 150th Anniversary of the Winnipeg Police, as well as the 50th Anniversary of the amalgamation of the various metro police departments in 1974.

Joe Lucki began his career as a first responder in the City of Transcona in 1959, during a time when those who served the community had to perform the dual role of both police officer and firefighter. He continued his service after the Transcona Police amalgamated with the City of Winnipeg as a detective until he retired shortly after the death of his 24-year-old daughter, Patricia, who was killed by a drunk driver in 1989.

In his retirement, Mr. Lucki and his wife Isydora sought to beautify the community of Transcona through gardening, winning the 2001 Winnipeg in Bloom Award for the best large residential garden. He also volunteered for 25-years as a fan ambassador with the Winnipeg Football Club.

I have spoken with Joe at Winnipeg Police Service events and know that his heart is still with our Service.

I fully support your proposal to rename Kildonan Meadows Park (the park by Mr. Lucki's house in Transcona alongside Dawnville Drive) to "Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park".

Sincerely,

Gene Bowers,
Chief of Police

/ead

Winnipeg Police Service • Service de Police de Winnipeg
"A safer community built on strong, trusting relationships" « Collectivité sécuritaire, fondée sur des rapports solides et de confiance »

June 25, 2024

Russ Wyatt, Councillor
Transcona Ward
Council Building, City Hall
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB. R3B 1B9

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Joe Lucki began his career as a first responder in the City of Transcona in 1959, during a time when those who served the community had to perform the dual role of both police officer and firefighter. He continued his service after the Transcona Police amalgamated with the City of Winnipeg as a detective until he retired shortly after the death of his 24-year-old daughter, Patricia, who was killed by a drunk driver in 1989.

In his retirement, Mr. Lucki and his wife Isydora sought to beautify the community of Transcona through gardening, winning the 2001 Winnipeg in Bloom Award for the best large residential garden. He also volunteered for 25-years as a fan ambassador with the Winnipeg Football Club.

Having got to know Joe, through my father Stan, also a former member of the Winnipeg Police, I fully support your proposal to rename Kildonan Meadows Park (the park by Mr. Lucki's house in Transcona alongside Dawnville Drive) to "Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park".

Sincerely,

Danny Smyth,
Chief of Police

An Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency
Organisme d'application de la loi reconnu internationalement

P.O. Box 1680 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2Z7 Bus: (204) 986-6037 Fax: (204) 986-6077
B.P. 1680 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2Z7 Trav: (204) 986-6037 Téléc: (204) 986-6077
www.winnipeg.ca/police

Winnipeg

May 21, 2025

Cory Wiles
President
Winnipeg Police Association
520 Corydon Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3I 0P1

To Whom it May Concern:
I am writing this letter in support of renaming Kildonan Meadows Park to ‘Lucki Family Park’ to honour Joe Lucki and his late wife and daughter, Isydora and Patricia, respectively.
Joe Lucki served 30 years as a Police Officer for the Town and then City of Transcona. Joe continued his service after Unicity for the amalgamated City of Winnipeg, until he retired shortly after the death of his 24 year-old daughter who passed away tragically due to a drunk driver, in 1989.
Joe and Isydora, however, continued with public service such as beautifying our city through the Winnipeg in Bloom Awards, volunteering and serving as long-time Fan Ambassadors for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, and supporting city-wide sporting events such as the Pan Am Games and the Indigenous Games.
I had the opportunity to meet Joe on April 27, 2024, at the Winnipeg Police Association Charity Ball, and witnessed him receive a well deserved and extended Standing Ovation at the Ball of over 500 people; in recognition of his service and contribution, and that of his family.

UNITED FIRE FIGHTERS OF WINNIPEG
LOCAL 867 - INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS
303-83 GARRY STREET, WINNIPEG, MB R3C 4J9 PHONE: 204-783-1733 or 204-783-1739 FAX: 204-772-2531

Please address all correspondence to the Secretary

May 29, 2024

Dr. Glen Wintrup % Councillor Russ Wyatt
Unit 6-801 Regent Avenue West
Winnipeg, MB
R2C 3A7

Dear Dr. Wintrup & Councillor Wyatt,

Thank you for your email dated May 29, 2024 regarding the proposed renaming of Kildonan Meadows Park. In learning of the dedication, not only to beautifying and taking pride in their City/Community but also in the capacity of serving the dual role of FireFighter and Police Officer, it is without hesitation that I support this recognition.

As a society, I believe we are quick to shine a light on all things negative, but slow or reluctant to celebrate selfless and noble acts such as the collective acts and lives of the Lucki Family. I believe we as proud Winnipeggers have an obligation to acknowledge and nurture lifelong contributors towards a safe and welcoming community. I thank you for educating me more on this rare gem of a Family and I sincerely hope your proposal gets approval.

Submitted with appreciation for good people,

Tom Bilous
President UFFW/L867/IAFF
303-83 Garry Street
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tbilous@uffw.ca
204-770-0481

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Genstar Development Company
Winnipeg Region
1371 Kenaston Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3P 2T5
Tel: (204) 488-6537
Fax: (204) 489-6918
Website: www.genstar.com

June 17, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Kildonan Meadows Park re-naming

As the original developer of the Kildonan Meadows neighbourhood in Transcona, Genstar Development Company does not have any concerns with, and is supportive of, renaming Kildonan Meadows Park to "Patricia, Isydora and Joe Lucki Family Park".

Regards,

Dave Boles
Vice President – Winnipeg Communities
Genstar Development Company

Photos of:

Kildonan Meadows Park

Located at 1120 Devonshire Dr. W

To be renamed:

Lucki Family Park


KILDONAN MEADOWS
PARK
1120 DEVONSHIRE DR W
311













