

RIBBON CUTTING:

Retired judge Saul Nosanchuk and his wife Nancy had grandson Seth cut the ribbon Saturday in a ceremony to rename the New Beginnings youthful offenders centre after Nosanchuk, who had an almost 50-year career as a lawyer, lecturer and judge in Windsor.



A fitting honour

New Beginnings named for judge who believes in 2nd chances

STORY AND PHOTO
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It was a time to sum up for the Hon. Justice Saul Nosanchuk.

Listening intently were some 300 friends, relatives, lawyers and fellow judges, police officers, politicians and others with ties to the justice system.

They had had come Saturday to show their affection and respect.

New Beginnings, an Erie Street counselling centre for youthful offenders, was being renamed in Nosanchuk's honour.

It was, many said, a fitting tribute to a half-century career as a criminal lawyer, lecturer and judge that was so often highlighted by efforts to salvage a young life from mistakes made.

Nosanchuk called it "one of the most significant days of my life.

"I'm overwhelmed with gratitude at the honour bestowed upon me."

The tall and slender, grey-haired No-

ships with, fellow judges, dedicated police officers, and community members like the late Rev. Neil Libby and Lou Drouillard, both pioneers in building community support systems for those coming out of prisons and jails.

He thanked his second wife Nancy for bringing him into her family, and reminding him of the value of family.

Nosanchuk regretted his son Mathew couldn't be present, because "he was working very hard in the campaign of Barack Obama in Florida."

But Nosanchuk smiled down at his 11-year-old grandson Seth, from Washington D.C., who had knocked out a home run for a birthday present not long ago. "The best birthday present I ever received in my life."

Restorative justice

It was Seth who cut the ribbon to officially re-dedicate the building.

Speeches over, Nosanchuk stood at the entrance and talked for almost an hour with virtually everyone who

friends, Joseph Camlis and Andrew Thompson — the three inseparable since almost toddlers — were dead.

The case was remarkable for the outpouring of compassion and forgiveness from the families of the victims. Cindy Camlis, mother of Joseph, moved Nosanchuk to tears with a plea that Hollinsky's grief over the loss of his best friends and willingness to face other young people to tell his story were punishment enough.

The Crown appealed, but the Court of Appeal upheld Nosanchuk's sentence. It was a watershed case across Canada in the balancing of rehabilitation, deterrence and punishment for youthful offenders.

Bill Marra, executive director of New Beginnings, said it's important to offer second, "and sometimes third chances" to young people when they most need it, an attitude the retired judge exemplified. "We're honoured to have his name on our building," Marra said.

Many other cases of Nosanchuk's