The Mathematical Input in Maxima session is very nice if it works all the time. Unfortunately, it seems to be broken in some events:

maxima] $Y_a(x) := \mathrm{diff}(x, t);$

(%o3) $Y_a(x) := \mathrm{diff}(x, t)$

(%i4) $Y_a(t^2)$

(%o4) 0

(%i5) `Y_a(x):=diff(x,t);`

(%o5) $Y^{\cdot}a(x) := \mathrm{diff}(x, t)$

(%i6) `Y_a(t^2);`

(%o6) $2\,t$

(%i7) $Y(x) := \mathrm{diff}(x, t);$

(%o7) $Y(x) := \mathrm{diff}(x, t)$

(%i8) $Y(t^2)$

(%o8) $2\,t$

(%i9)