

Former councillor 'dies after complications from surgery

By JOHN STEWART

Staff

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Obituary

Carmen Corbasson, who became synonymous with grassroots representation in her 16 years as the city councillor for Ward 1, died Saturday morning as a result of complications from surgery.

Corbasson, 62, worked for a decade as the secretary for her predecessor, Harold Kennedy. When Kennedy retired in 1994, Corbasson already knew the ward and the issues so well that she quickly made the short move from the secretary's chair to the councillor's seat. She defeated several challengers including current Mississauga-Streetsville MP Brad Butt in the 1994 municipal election.

Butt will deliver the eulogy at Corbasson's funeral. Meanwhile, visitation is tonight from 6-9 p.m. and tomorrow from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at Skinner and Middlebrook Funeral Home, 128 Lakeshore Rd. E.

The funeral will be held Friday beginning at 11 a.m. at Trinity Anglican Church on Stavebank Rd. N.

Like Kennedy, who served on council for 26 years, Corbasson earned a reputation for taking a solid, if unspectacular approach, to the job. She relied more on solving people's day-to-day problems than rhetorical flourishes.

Butt said Corbasson will be remembered most for putting other people, and her community, before her own interests.

In a tribute in the House of Commons on Monday Butt said Corbasson, "put her fingerprint on just about everything that happened in her community. Her grace under fire and ability to truly listen to people are legendary."

Ward 1 Councillor Jim Tovey, who defeated Corbasson in a hard-fought battle in October of 2010 to end her career on council after 16 years, said his predecessor "will be remem-

bered for her fabulous commitment to the community. No one can doubt her length of service and her commitment," said Tovey who was shocked at her sudden death.

"She was an inspiration to me and to everyone who knew her," the first-term councillor said.

"With Carmen, it was the many little things that she did so well. It was a great example she set. She was always there for people, whether it was an issue about a fence or a ditch," said Tovey.

When he looks around Ward 1, Tovey said, he can see Corbasson's mark everywhere on the landscape.

"Things like the new Port Credit arena, Harold Kennedy Park, the Port Credit swimming pool. She worked hard and diligently and she will be remembered for a lot of things — and they're all good."

Judy Imerson, the former director of editorial for *The Mississauga News* who was a close friend, remembers Corbasson as, "one of the warmest, most caring people I've ever known. She had an immense capacity to give, to her family, her friends and her community.

"She worked so hard for this community for so long, and she finally had an opportunity to relax and enjoy her children and grandchildren and now that opportunity is lost," said Imerson. "Her loss is not just a personal one for her family and her friends, but for the entire city."

Corbasson is survived by daughters Lisa and Julie, and by her two grandchildren, Summer and Gabriel.



Carmen Corbasson

- with files from Alex Consiglio