

# Dobkin's dream a reality at last

St. Keel B.og. Scribble

Dobkin, Martin

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## Long-delayed medical arts building opens its doors on Hurontario St.

By SANDY MCLEAN  
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Mississauga's largest medical arts building officially opened its doors Sunday with the city's first mayor leading the way.

Dr. Martin Dobkin, mayor from 1974-77 (when Mayor Hazel McCallion was a councillor representing Streetsville), spearheaded plans to build the three-storey City Centre Medical Arts Building at 3420 Hurontario St.

"We've been planning the building for 11 years. It's been a dream of ours and it's finally become a reality," Dobkin said.

Originally slated to be built in the late 1970s, it was postponed due to high construction and financing costs, he said.

Dobkin denied he had problems getting the medical building constructed because of planning policies brought in while he was mayor.

"Development was in chaos. There was no official plan when I became mayor," he said. Mississauga's official plan was put in place during Dobkin's term in office.

"It was that plan that made all the development in Mississauga possible," he added.

The list of dignitaries scheduled to appear at the opening read like a list of who's who in Mississauga. Wine glasses clinked and congratulations were made as a harpist and flutist played softly in the background.

"I think medical centres such as this are the way to go," McCallion told those gathered. With increasing medical costs governments can't afford to build new hospitals, she added.

Eighty-five per cent of the building is leased and is home to a dermatologist, physiotherapist, ophthalmologist, sports injury back and foot clinic, a laboratory, an optician and a pharmacy. An X-ray office is in the works.

Six family doctors, including Dobkin, moved from two small houses adjacent to the medical building to occupy the main floor. Dobkin has been practicing out of one of the houses for the last 14 years.

Patients are encouraged to make an appointment, but the doctors will see people on a walk-in basis.

About 20 new patients have signed up everyday since the main-floor doctor's offices opened in Sept. Close to 90 per cent of walk-in patients have signed up as regulars.

It is the 55th medical centre Mississauga developer Edward Thornley, president of CMD Inc., has built.

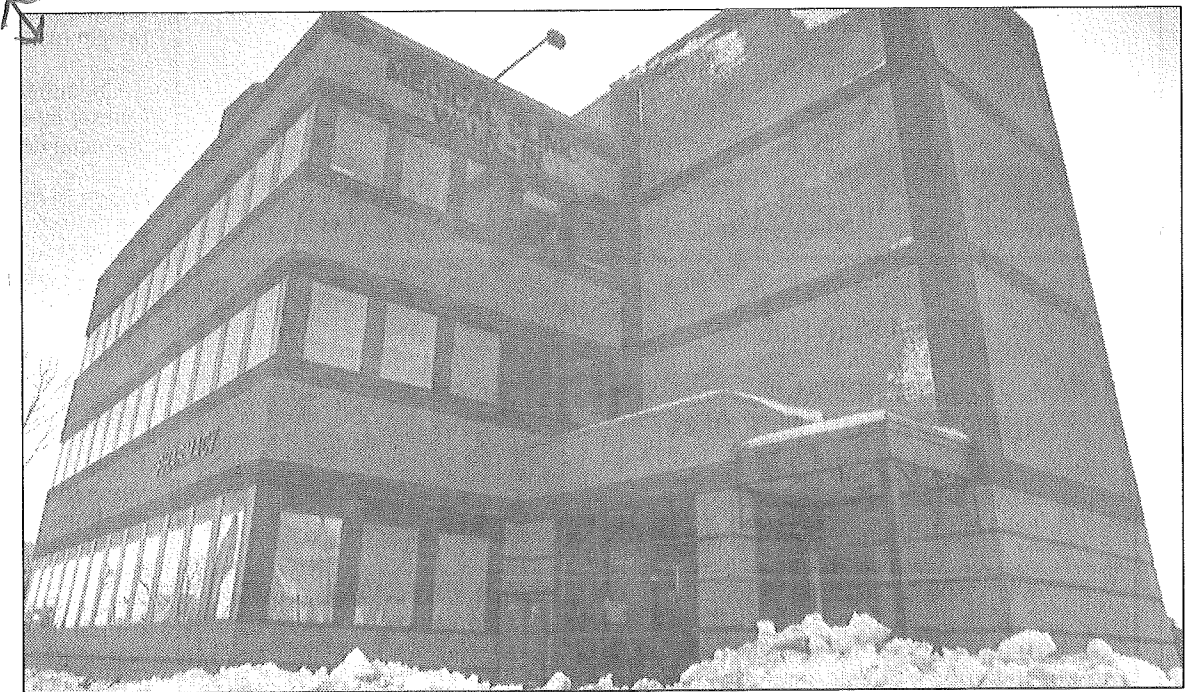


Photo by Pete Thompson  
Former Mississauga mayor Dr. Martin Dobkin officiated as he helped open the new City Centre Medical Centre. The centre is owned by CMD Inc. the principals of which are (above, from left) Ed Thornly, Paul Newton and Dobkin.