

*Frank Dowling was life-long village resident*

# Streetsville's mayor was always ready to help

The epitaph on Frank Dowling's gravestone will read, "Elected the first Mayor of the Town of Streetsville."

"That was the thing he was proudest of," says Dowling's son Ed, the City's former transit manager. "That's what he wanted to have engraved on his tombstone."

Frank Dowling, 84, died this week at Credit Valley Hospital of complications from heart disease and cancer.

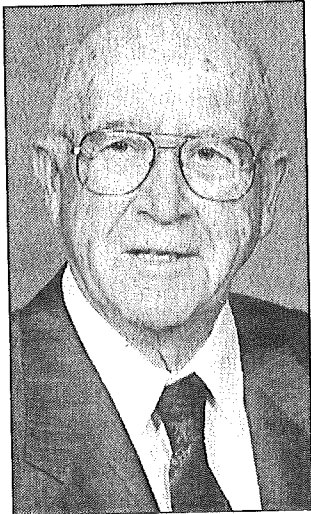
He lived in Streetsville all of his life and was a politician in an era when that was just another part-time voluntary position.

"I remember Hurricane Hazel," his son says of the 1954 storm that caused severe damage throughout the area. "Dad was the mayor but he was out there with some guy from the works department switching valves and changing pumps so people's basements wouldn't be flooded."

Dowling's political career began in 1948 when he was first elected to the village council. He became the Town's first deputy reeve in 1956, then took the top job as reeve in 1958.

When Streetsville became a Town in 1962, Dowling won the post as its first mayor.

The house where Dowling and his seven siblings were born, on Britannia Rd. beside the old firehall, still stands. The Dowling farm covered much of what is now the Canada Brick



**DOWLING**

property along Erin Mills Pkwy. Dowling's father John had himself served on the village council in the 1920's.

"I don't think Dad ever got any money for serving on council," says his son. "It was total dedication to the community."

Dowling worked at Reid Milling at one time, as well as at the Avro Anson Aircraft plant for two years during the Second World War. After the war, he opened his own business, Frank Dowling Milk Transport before starting his own bus company in 1954. His son earned \$1 for every bus he washed and got a taste of the transportation business that has remained in his blood.

Dowling was a charter member of the Streetsville Lions Club and served as president in 1957-58. One of its major projects was the construction of Vic Johnston arena.

From 1957-61, Dowling served as director of the Peel Children's Aid Society and was president in 1960.

In a 1997 interview, Dowling recalled one of the controversies that raged in Streetsville in the late 1950's, after the school board turned over the Streetsville Grammar School site to the municipality.

"There were people who wanted to tear the building down," Dowling said. "They had formed a little pressure club," said the former mayor, one of those who strongly resisted the movement.

The preservationists won and as a result the building, now a heritage site, later became Streetsville's town hall. It is now the Kinsmen's Senior Centre.

Dowling opposed construction of the

Centre Plaza at around the same time, believing it was premature and would hurt downtown business merchants.

While he stepped down in 1962, Dowling was an active participant in Streetsville's efforts to avoid amalgamation with Mississauga as part of the new Region of Peel in 1974.

Despite the political loss, Dowling felt that Streetsville had survived intact, with its identity as strong as ever.

At the time of his death, Dowling still lived in Streetsville, right beside the park named in his honor.

Dowling's wife Noreen died in 1977. He is survived by Ed and his wife Dee and grandchildren Kevin, Jeff and Ted.

PEEL BIOGRAPHY DOWLING, FRANK

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