

Igor Gouzenko had home here

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For 15 years, ex-Soviet spy kept secret

By JOHN STEWART
For the past 15 years, the man whose defection changed forever the western world's attitude toward Soviet Russia, had been living quietly in Mississauga.
Igor Gouzenko died of a heart attack at his city home last week, and was buried not far away.
The former Soviet clerk walked out of the Soviet embassy in Ottawa in September 1945 with 109 documents which showed Russia had been spying on its World War II allies. The information led to a number of convictions of Soviet spies.

Gouzenko was most familiar to Canadians as the man wearing the bag over his head, who testified at various espionage trials, and inquiries into spying.
One of the few local people who knew Gouzenko's real identity was Mississauga South MP Don Blenkarn, who acted as lawyer for Gouzenko and his wife several years ago. Blenkarn said he was

helping the couple sort out some financial problems when he "put three and three together" and concluded who his client really was.
"I met him two or three times over the years," recalls Blenkarn. But he says he never revealed that he knew Gouzenko's true identity. "I always played the game," he says.
The Conservative MP says

Gouzenko frequently supplied information to Conservative maverick MP Tom Cossitt, who claimed Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was a Communist.
Blenkarn sent a message of condolence last week to the Gouzenko home. Mrs. Gouzenko has been a faithful and tireless campaign worker, according to the Conservative MP.

Ward 6 councillor David Culham had no idea that the famous Soviet defector was a constituent of his. Culham first read Gouzenko's book, *Fall of a Titan*, when he was a teenager. The book, and Gouzenko's actions, led a vivid impression on him.
"I wish the man did not exist," says Culham. "We were looking in the street last week and I was talking with somebody and I thought, 'That's Gouzenko's wife and she probably says this and that.' I heard when I was campaigning in 1973 and never even knew it."
A few years later, Gouzenko went blind from glaucoma.
Culham found the information about Gouzenko's residency probably shocking.
"I was always fascinated with him as a kid," he recalls. "As a die-hard socialist, I was always curious about the politics

tions of people who had lived under totalitarian regimes."
Culham says Gouzenko should be honored by the municipality and the nation.
If Mrs. Gouzenko is no longer concerned about her security, and that of the couple's eight children, Culham would like to publicly honor her husband's efforts.
"There should be some recognition of the joy of being in this country," says the councillor, "without having to fear the secret service. There should be some recognition of what this man did for our freedom."