

*Veteran Tory ran Bud Gregory's campaigns*

**Ward 3 kingmaker Hartness dies**

Ken Hartness, who shunned the limelight himself but made sure many Mississauga politicians got a chance to shine in it, has died.

Hartness, 56, was campaign chairman or co-chairman for a host of local politicians in Ward 3 and the Mississauga East riding in the 1970s and 1980s.

Hartness ran all of Bud Gregory's campaigns from the time he won the newly created Mississauga East riding in 1975 until he was defeated a decade later.

He also ran several Ward 3 local council campaigns for Gregory, Chic Murray and Rudy Skjarum.

Hartness was the treasurer of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party for five years and served six years until 1985 on the Ontario Censor Board. He also served as president of the Mississauga East Tory Federal Riding Association and was on the executive of the East provincial association for many years. He was co-chair of the fundraising campaign for the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre.

"When Ken was diagnosed two years ago we were mortified" said his wife Barbara, federal returning officer for Mississauga East and a long-time member of the Mississauga Counter-Act anti-van-

dalism group and the Mississauga Crime Prevention Association.

"We decided to fight together and we did. I feel I've lost half of me."

Her husband was a very private person who chose not to tell many of his illness. Two years ago he bought the company where he'd worked for many years and changed the name of the Mississauga manu-

facturing firm to Stencil and Label Systems Ltd.

Former Mississauga Mayor Ron Searle said Hartness was best known for his infectious sense of humor. "He always had a smile and he always had a joke" he recalled. "He was an uplifting kind of guy."



Mississauga News file photo

This photo of Ken Hartness was taken when he was a member of the Ontario Censor Board in 1984.

PEEL BIOGRAPHY

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