

# Musicians added to Walk of Fame

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Staff

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Four great names were set in stone last night during the inaugural Mississauga Music Walk of Fame ceremony held at Memorial Park in Port Credit.

The Class of 2012 — the Walk's first honourees — included legendary rocker Ronnie Hawkins, Triumph drummer Gil Moore, opera singer Krisztina Szabo and late great jazz pianist Oscar Peterson.

Moore, the owner of the famous MetalWorks recording studio who has already been enshrined in both the Canadian Music Hall of Fame and the Canadian Music Industry Hall of Fame, said there is a difference between national and local attention.

"It's a different type of recognition in your own community," said Moore. "It has a special feeling and a special meaning."

While posing for photos with fans, Hawkins said, "I think it's just wonderful," in his famous southern drawl. "I've always loved ol' Mississauga."

Szabo, who received a MARTY Award in 2005 from the Mississauga Arts Council, found it a little daunting to receive her plaque after the Hawk.

"Ronnie Hawkins is a very hard person to follow — what a tribute," she told the crowd. "I'm very proud to be from Mississauga."

During the closing remarks, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion declared: "Mississauga is growing up in a big way."

That's exactly what Ward 1 Councillor Jim Tovey had in mind when he put forth the idea to city council.

"It used to drive me crazy when the media would talk about Gil

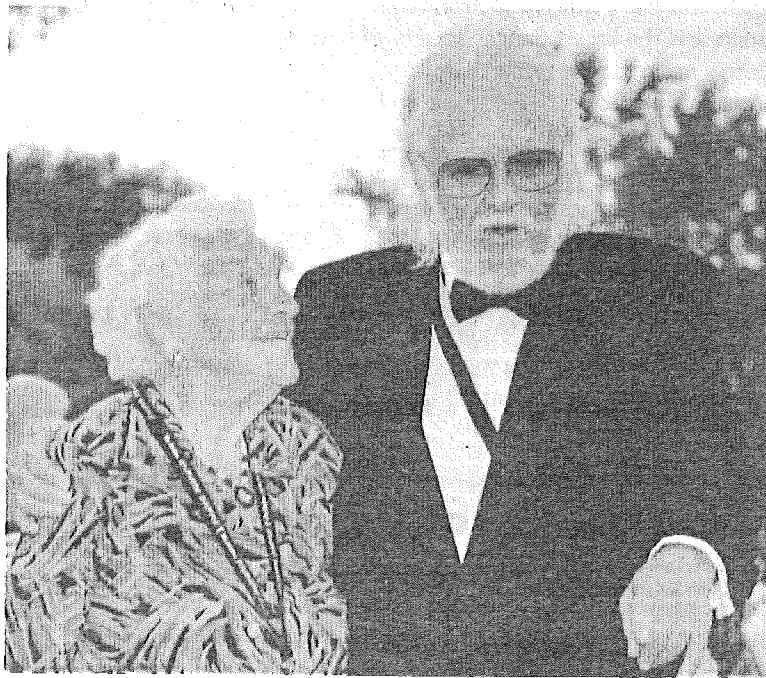
Moore and Oscar Peterson and say they're from Toronto," Tovey said. "We're not a city of 250,000 anymore, there's 740,000 people in this city — that's a big city."

Tovey said initiatives such as the Walk of Fame and the arts and culture office make Mississauga a cultural hotbed.

"We're putting more and more money into arts and culture each year," he said. "If we're going to become a real stand-alone city, we're going to have to have our own arts and culture identity."

Moore agreed, saying "We've got some great achievers and some great monuments and some wonderful things to celebrate here."

The Mississauga Walk of Fame induction ceremony opened the door for a weekend of great music in Port Credit during the annual Tim Hortons Southside Shuffle Blues & Jazz Festival. The event features more than 175 Canadian and international musical acts performing in Port Credit Memorial Park. Visit, southsideshuffle.com for information.



Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion and legendary rocker Ronnie Hawkins watch the unveiling of his star on the Mississauga Walk of Fame on Friday in Port Credit Memorial Park.

Staff photo by Jason Spencer

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Wall Biography - HAWKINS, RONNIE