

Community leader and car dealer, Hawley dead at 78



Ross Hawley, seen in a 1980's photo, received many awards for both his community work and his business accomplishments.

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Ross Hawley, whose credo was service and quality in both business and community life, has died.

Hawley built a business that started in 1944 as a gas station, which also sold farm equipment, into one of the most successful car dealerships in Ontario. He sold more than 50,000 cars over half-a-century.

Hawley Pontiac Buick, on Dundas St. E. in Cooksville, became a local institution and its co-owner became a pillar of the local community.

The 78-year-old Hawley, who had cancer, went into hospital for tests this week and died as a result of complications.

"He was foremost a people person," recalled

son-in-law and business partner Dave Crewson yesterday. "He was the eternal optimist. He was community-oriented and loyal. He had integrity. He was all the good things."

When Hawley first moved to Dundas St., it was a two-lane road with little traffic beside the Gray Coach bus.

With hard work and perseverance, Hawley and his late partner David Moore, made the spot a landmark. Hawley established the business after his stint as a flying officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II.

Asked the formula for his success on the occasion of his 50th anniversary, Hawley replied, "I believe if you give your customers good quality and good service at a fair price,

they'll keep coming back."

Hawley also believed in making an investment in his community. The father of two daughters and grandfather of five was a founding member of the Mississauga Board of Trade, the Cooksville Businessman's Club and what is now the Rotary Club of Mississauga. He is a former winner of the Business Person of the Year award from the Board of Trade.

The car dealership he established and nurtured will continue to bear his name.

Visitation will be today from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. at Turner and Porter, 2180 Hurontario St. The funeral will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 24 Stavebank Rd. N. in Port Credit Thursday at 1 p.m.

P.E.E.L. BIOGRAPHY
M.N. May 14/97
HAWLEY, ROSS