

Peel B'ing. Bk.  
July 22 87 MN  
Henderson, Dean

## ✓ Former town manager dies in hospital

July 22-87 MN  
Peel Regional Bk

Dean Henderson, the first manager of the township of Toronto and the town of Mississauga, died Sunday in Credit Valley Hospital after a long illness.

The 62-year-old long-time resident of Mississauga came to the former township of Toronto as treasurer in February of 1952. He became one of the first administrators in the province to assume the overall responsibility as manager of a municipality in 1960. He served jointly as treasurer and township manager until 1969.

After leaving the municipality in December of 1973, Henderson joined the Mississauga accounting firm of Withey, Adamson in Clarkson. In September of 1978 he was appointed as a member of the Ontario Municipal Board by the provincial Cabinet. He took sick leave from his post in March of last year.

Former Mississauga mayor Ron Searle said Monday that Henderson "was an extraordinary guy who pioneered the town manager system." He said Henderson was responsible for a number of other innovations such as the general committee system.

He led negotiations with the province over the purchase of the municipal assets of the Ontario Water Resources Commission and got "a very, very good deal for the township."

"Dean Henderson was an extraordinary negotiator and a sophisticated town manager when they were a very rare breed," said Searle.

Henry Stewart, who succeeded Henderson as manager when Mississauga became a city in 1974, was both a long-time colleague and friend of Henderson's. Stewart subsequently became chairman of the Ontario Municipal Board where he still serves and where Henderson became a hearing officer in 1978. One of the most important hearings Henderson handled was the Redhill Creek Expressway hearing in Hamilton.

Stewart said Henderson had a knack of hiring good people to form an effective management team. "He was a man of excellent character, a very dependable person," said Stewart. "He was a hard worker and a good family man."

Lou Parsons, former chairman of Peel Region who also served as a councillor while Henderson was city manager, said Henderson was an outstanding public servant who "ran a tight ship in the early growth years of Mississauga."

Henderson was born in Colborne, Ontario. He graduated from Riverdale Collegiate in Toronto in 1943. During the war he served with the 432nd Squadron stationed in Yorkshire, England.

He became a chartered accountant in 1950. Henderson was past president of the Ontario Municipal Administrators' Association, a member of the International City Management Association, a member of the Blair Commission on property tax reform and more recently a member of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

He and his wife Margaret have lived on Applewood Rd. for many years. Henderson, who died of emphysema, is survived by his daughter Heather, his son Ian, and granddaughter Cecilia. Funeral services will take place today at 11 a.m. at Applewood United Church.