

WEEKLY
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WE SALUTE - Mississauga's Town Manager

COOKSVILLE — Dean Henderson has played a major part in the vast growth of Toronto Township since 1952.

As Township Manager, Henderson has seen Toronto Township grow from a group of isolated communities totalling 20,000 residents to what will be its status Jan. 1 — Canada's largest town with a population of more than 105,000.

On this noteworthy date, the Town of Mississauga will officially be incorporated as one unified community tying together all the separate areas under one name. Dean Henderson will be responsible for implementing council decisions and carrying out the day-to-day administration of the new town.

Henderson has been the Toronto Township Manager since 1960. He has had a first-hand view of Reeve Bob Speck's personal campaign to gain town status for the area.

"Up to now Toronto Township has been a series of small units. Now they will be joined together and eventually will be one complete unit," he said.

Henderson was born in Colborne, Ontario, in 1925. He moved to Toronto when he was just a year old.

After graduating from Riverdale Collegiate, Henderson joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942. He served three years in Europe and was discharged in 1945.

After the war Henderson was employed by the firm of Gunn and Roberts Company, Toronto, where he took a five-year chartered Accountants course.

While with the company, he was introduced to the Toronto Township's operation, doing the auditing on the township's books.

He moved to the Township in 1952 as treasurer. In 1960, he assumed the dual role of township manager and treasurer.



DEAN HENDERSON

He said that it had been everyone's wish to have the area unified.

"The promotion of the

idea was council's," he said, "and we backed them up all the way."

Dean Henderson is mar-

ried with two children — Heather, 12, and Ian, 11. His wife, Margaret, is active in charity drives, including the united appeal in Toronto Township and the March of Dimes.

Henderson himself is involved with Church activities and he serves as an elder at Applewood United.

A member of the Dixie Curling Club, he also likes to play an occasional round of golf.

He is past-president of the Dixie Kiwanis Club. Henderson is still an active member.

As township manager, Henderson reports directly to Reeve Speck and his council. It is his duty to see that policies established by elected members are carried out.

He gets the wheels in motion after council decisions regarding by-laws and spending. This eliminates the

need for the usual great number of standing committees by leaving elected council free to deal with policy matters.

Henderson and the other permanent township officials carry out the everyday workings of the community administration.

The new town status for Mississauga will not present any real changes in Henderson's job.

"The name has nothing to do with what we have to do," he said. "The total operation will be carried out on the same basis as it has in the past."

He felt the question of amalgamation should be left to the politicians. "However, I feel that Port Credit and Streetsville will inevitably become part of some larger unit. Whether this will be Mississauga or not, I don't really know."