

STEPHEN IRWIN DESIGNED SOME OF THIS CITY'S DISTINCTIVE BUILDINGS

THE ACCOMPLISHED ARCHITECT DIED THIS PAST MARCH 5, AT AGE 79, WRITES NICK MOREAU

**NICK MOREAU,
PEEL ART GALLERY,
MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES**

Have you ever wandered through Jack Darling Park? You've likely stood on one of architect Stephen Irwin's earliest Mississauga buildings.

In the mid-1970s, the newly formed City of Mis-

sisauga needed to solve a problem. It had leased 84 acres of land for a water treatment facility, and was allowing the public to use the land as a park. The city was presented with a challenge; how do you take a public park away from a community once it has embraced the space?

Irwin's solution was to bury the three-storey Lorne Park Water Treatment Plant and cap it with a terraced landscape. Other than a few emergency exits and windows, the property looks like a toboggan hill.

The accomplished architect died this past March 5,

at age 79.

While it may be challenging to appreciate an architectural design that you can't really see, there are a variety of other buildings in the city designed by Irwin as part of the firm Shore Tilbe Irwin + Partners - the spacious Mississauga Central Library, opened in 1991, Xerox Research Centre of Canada in Mississauga's Sheridan Park, and the Peel District School Board's H.J.A. Brown Education Centre on Matheson Boulevard.

When the Toronto police needed a new headquarters in the 1980s, Irwin was hired



PAMA/City of Mississauga fonds

Mississauga Central Library, seen here before it opened, was completed in 1991.

as the architect. The building he designed is clad in a warm shade of granite, with a landscaped entrance, and ample windows. The building was equally applauded and criticized in the Toronto media.

Irwin was also on the community board that cre-

ated the Mississauga Living Arts Centre, the non-profit creative hub which opened in 1997.

Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives is located at 9 Wellington St. E., Brampton, and parking is available at any of the nearby parking garages; for

more information, visit pama.peelregion.ca.

Throwback Thursday is provided by Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives. PAMA is a place to explore, learn and make connections about Peel Region's culture and heritage.