

ME Braetley

Dead at 100 years of age

Peel Biog. Scrapbk

Gordon Jackson: A pillar of Mississauga community

By AMANDA CASHMORE

Special to *The Mississauga News*

A pillar of the Mississauga community for 70 years and a pioneer of Mississauga Hospital died Saturday.

Gordon B. Jackson met his end peacefully after almost 101 years of accomplishments.

Jackson set up the first law practice in Cooksville in 1919 when Dundas St. was nothing more than a muddy dirt road, and he shaped the character of Mississauga after that.

His daughter, Ruth de Boerr, says Jackson was the leading light in the building of Mississauga Hospital because he saw the changes taking place here and the need for the city to have a facility of its own.

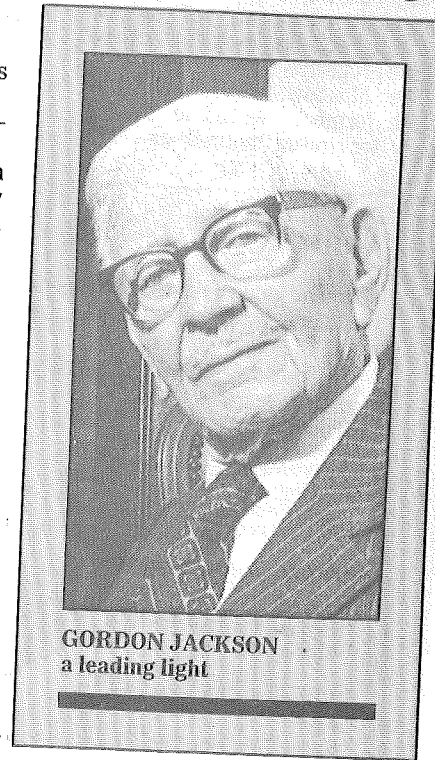
He was the first chairman of the board of directors of the original 115-bed hospital, and appropriately, his first house still stands on Hwy. 10 as part of Mississauga Hospital.

Mississauga Hospital president Merritt Henderson, who met Jackson in 1958, says he was very much the right man at the right time for the hospital.

"Whenever my own energy flags from my workload, I remember he was 65 when he first committed himself to organizing the building of the hospital," says Henderson.

Henderson says he was impressed with Jackson for going to the Mississauga community with a plebiscite to determine the size of the hospital after admitting he

See COMMUNITY page 2



GORDON JACKSON
a leading light

Community leader left his mark on Mississauga

(Cont. from page 1)

had underestimated its size in his initial plans to build a 50-bed facility.

In the 1930s Jackson's expertise helped Malton (then Toronto Township) land the contract to develop Toronto International Airport, and

during the 1950s he was instrumental in keeping the township apart from Metro Toronto.

The decision to exclude Mississauga from expanding Metro was made at Queen's Park because no court was big enough to hold the participants.

"I don't know anyone who was as diversified as Dad, and I guess as brilliant," says de Boerr.

He was involved as an elder with three Presbyterian churches locally, Dixie, St. Andrew's and Clarkson Rd. Jackson was a soloist in his church choirs as a younger man.

De Boerr says last year she and her twin sister, Beth, threw a 100th birthday party for Jackson and more than