

Obituary

Jenkins ran against major political forces

Charlie Jenkins lost elections to some of the biggest names in Peel County politics, but he went on to carve out his own niche in the local political scene.

Jenkins, who died Saturday at the age of 84, launched his political career as a Canadian Commonwealth Federation (CCF) candidate in the 1949 federal election. He lost to Gordon Graydon.

In 1951 and 1955, the erstwhile socialist was again on the hustings battling a local legend. He lost to Conservative Colonel Tom Kennedy, who later served for a short time as the interim premier of this province.

Despite his party affiliation, which was a definite liability in the conservative Township of Toronto, Jenkins won election as Ward 1 councillor in 1953 and

served four consecutive one-year terms before unsuccessfully seeking the deputy-reeve's post.

He was re-elected to council representing the Cooksville area in 1960 and served another six terms.

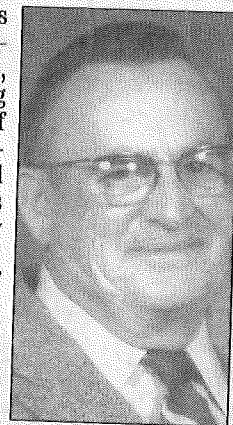
Former Mississauga Mayor Ron Searle, who served with Jenkins in his last years on council, recalls him as a hard worker who was willing to put time and effort into committee work that served valuable human needs, but didn't garner much personal acclaim.

"He was always doing things for people," says Searle. "He had a heart as big as the whole outdoors."

Jenkins, who also served as a school trustee for the Lakeview School Board, was president of the Peel

Children's Aid Society in 1970, a founding director of the Retarded Children's Authority and a director of the Social Planning Council, among other things.

A fiscal conservative, Jenkins started his own highly successful printing business. Searle recalls his vociferous opposition to a suggestion that councillors in the early 60's, who earned \$25 for every day there was



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a meeting, should hold their meetings on different days, to maximize their income.

"Charlie said that wouldn't be fair to the taxpayers," Searle recalls.

Jenkins moved to Otonabee Township in 1970 and built a home south of Peterborough. He made his mark in politics there as well, winning election to council and rising to become reeve of Otonabee and warden of Peterborough County.

Jenkins is survived by his wife Mary, his son Bill of Mississauga and Bill's wife Sandra and by his daughter Jean-Ellen and her husband Carson Minich of Georgetown.

A memorial service was held Friday at the St. John's Dixie Crematorium on Dundas St. E. at Cawthra Rd.