

Funeral set for Saturday

Community newspaper publisher McCallion dies

Sam McCallion was a man whose life was dedicated to service of his family, his church, and his community, friends recalled yesterday.

"The town has lost one of its really strong supporters over many years," Streetsville's former Police Chief Don Fletcher said yesterday. "He was a hard-working volunteer and booster of this community, and he was such a gentleman no matter what he did."

McCallion, 73, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, died late Wednesday afternoon at Credit Valley Hospital. He was surrounded by his family, including wife Hazel, the long-time mayor of Mississauga.

Fletcher was a rookie police officer when he first got to know McCallion. Fletcher often drew night patrol and he knew he could always count on a coffee and a chat when he dropped by McCallion's printing and publishing business after midnight.

"I never saw a man work so many hours," said Fletcher, not-

ing that an outstanding work ethic seems to run in the McCallion clan.

Over the years, Fletcher also found McCallion to be a staunch supporter of the community through his newspaper, The Streetsville Booster.

Ralph Hunter knew McCallion for more than 30 years as a neighbor on Britannia Rd., and as a fellow member of many Streetsville service clubs.

"Sam McCallion was the epitome of what a good community-minded person is," Hunter said. As well as founding the Streetsville Bread and Honey Festival, McCallion helped institute the Streetsville Chamber of Commerce and was a ceaseless promoter of the community through his paper.

"He was unpretentious, never asking for recognition. He was a strong team player. He was just a good, strong solid citizen," Hunter remarked.

Jim Flack, another long-time Streetsville friend, said McCallion exemplified the good Christian. A lay reader at St. Trinity Anglican Church for more than 40 years, McCallion helped out at innumerable weddings and funerals and was a fixture at the 8 a.m. Sunday church service.

When McCallion was honored for his years as a lay reader at Trinity Church in 1986, Earl Gerber, former rector of the church recalls, "the congregation gave him a standing ovation that went on and on and on."

"He was a good family man and a wonderful husband to Hazel," Flack recalled. Although often relegated to a supporting role in public appearances with his wife, McCallion handled that role, "with the grace and ease that was the man," Flack said.

Born in Mount Dennis in what is now York in 1923, McCallion left Runnymede



The McCallion family in early years on their Britannia Rd. farm.

Collegiate to pursue his lifelong passion for photography.

He met the former Hazel Journeaux in the late 1940s through the Anglican Young People's Association. The couple married in 1951, settling on five acres of land on Britannia Rd. and raising children Peter, Linda and Paul there.

Linda Burgess says her father worked quietly behind the scenes to support her mother's political efforts. "He was always 100 per cent behind my mom," she said. "It is often said that there's a woman behind every great man. My dad was the man behind the great woman."

Son Paul, publisher of what is now called The Mississauga Booster, says his father never really retired from the newspaper he founded in 1963. "He worked right up to when his illness prevented him from working further."

Visitation takes place today from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at Trinity Anglican, 69 Queen St. A full funeral will be held tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. at the same church.



Sam and Hazel McCallion, at the Mayor's Gala several years ago.