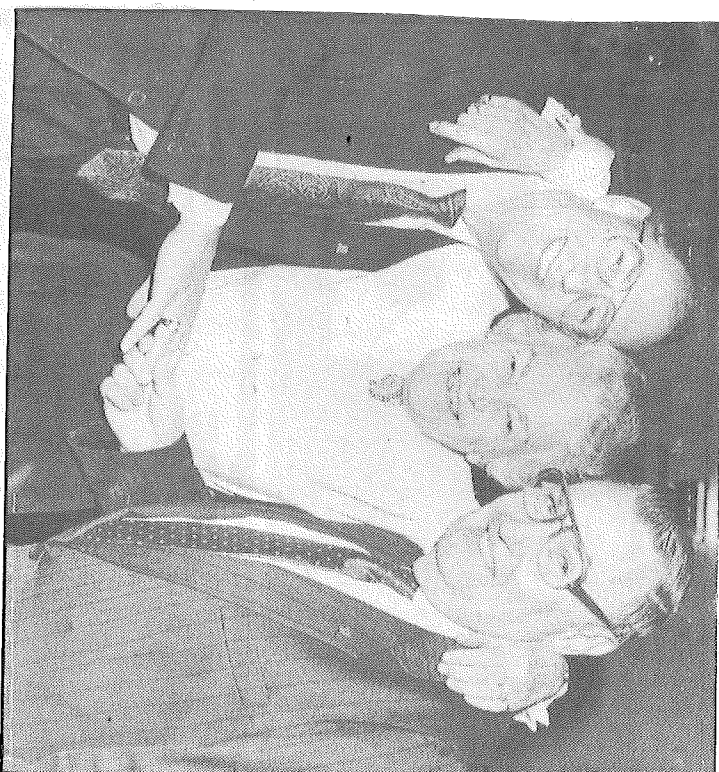


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McGILLIVARY, Len



Staff photo by Fred Look  
Retiring deputy city clerk Len McGillivary (right) and city treasurer William Munden (left) celebrated with Mayor Hazel McCallion at the city's most recent long-term service awards dinner. McGillivary caps a career of almost four decades with Streetsville and Mississauga when he retires at the end of the month.

## Len McGillivary retiring

# City hall veteran is calling it quits after 36 long years

By JOHN STEWART  
Staff Reporter

When Len McGillivary was talked into becoming the clerk-treasurer of the village of Streetsville in September 1953, he really didn't know what he was letting himself in for.

He certainly had no idea that taking over as administrator for the village of 1,400 people would one day lead him to become deputy city clerk of one of Canada's 10 largest cities.

McGillivary retires this month after more than 36 years as clerk in Streetsville and deputy clerk with Mississauga. In an interview this week, the 63-year-old native of St. Mary's, Ontario, admitted he was something of "a jack of all trades" in his duties with Streetsville. Yes, indeed. As well as being the clerk of the village, McGillivary was at various times an assessment commissioner, a justice of the peace, and a volunteer firefighter, among other chores.

Things were a little different back in 1953 when McGillivary accepted an offer from the village council to become its clerk. After 10 years as assistant agent at the Streetsville CPR station, the young McGillivary already knew virtually everyone in the village.

He became Streetsville's first full-time clerk. Previously, the clerk had worked part time for the village and part time for the Public Utilities Commission. The two bodies continued to share a building at 167 Queen St. for a number of years, with two rings on the party telephone line signifying the village and three rings for the PUC.

Streetsville had only one part-time policeman who lived out of town in Elmbank, near what is now Malton. Fortunately, the town also retained a solicitor named H. Ward Allen, who later became a judge. Allen offered the novice clerk a lot of valuable advice, although McGillivary exercised restraint about consulting him since it was long distance to call him a few miles out of town.

As justice of the peace, McGillivary

was required to produce summonses, and lay charges requested by police. On many occasions he had to travel to Peel or Brampton courts to provide the administrative backup.

The clerk was also responsible for running elections, of course. McGillivary recalls that the nomination process was somewhat different in those early days.

When McGillivary took over as clerk-treasurer, Streetsville was already in the midst of a building boom. The population had skyrocketed from 1,100 to 1,400 in just a year. Growth would continue to be the watchword as Streetsville became a town in 1962, and then — after losing a long and bitter battle against amalgamation with Mississauga — a part of that city in 1974. The leader of that battle, Hazel McCallion, would lick her wounds by becoming mayor of the city that swallowed her town.

McCallion says McGillivary "was part engineer, part lawyer, part clerk, city administrator, planner, you name it. He was everything, and his knowledge was just outstanding. He had a background you just don't find today."

It was quite an adjustment for McGillivary to begin working for Mississauga. "The biggest change was from knowing everything that was going on and having my hands on everything to coming here and knowing hardly anything that was going on."

But McGillivary made the adjustment and praises city clerk Terence Julian for his thoughtful and fair direction of the clerk's department. "We worked very well together and I'm sorry to leave him."

The whole village of Streetsville offices would fit into a space a little larger than Julian's office. McGillivary says it's been a long, sometimes bumpy, but never dull, ride from the village to working for the nation's ninth-largest city. Back in the old days, though, "I think the citizens got better service. You knew everybody. You were concerned when you got a complaint because you knew the person."