

**'Chic' Murray**

*Peel Biog. bk.  
July 11-84  
MP*

# Former mayor dead at age 70

By **MARY LOUISE BIRKS**  
Staff Writer

Former Mississauga mayor Charles (Chic) Murray, who died last week of cancer, is remembered by friends, admirers — and even political opponents — as a man whose brusque manner masked a compassionate nature, and whose financial expertise helped lay the city's foundations.

"Chic Murray called it like it was," recalled former Mississauga Mayor Ron Searle, who sat on several Mississauga councils with

Murray and praised him as "the finest chairman of finance the County of Peel and the township of Mississauga ever had."

"Chic had the capacity to earn the respect and friendship of political opponents — a rather unique quality," said Searle, who defeated Murray in a bid for a federal Conservative nomination in 1965.

"He was a man who never sacrificed principle for political expediency," Searle added.

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OVER

# Murray helped set groundwork for Mississauga

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Former Mississauga councillor and ex-Peel Region chairman Lou Parsons mourned Murray's death as "the end of an era that started in the 1950s in which superior management ability joined council for the first time.

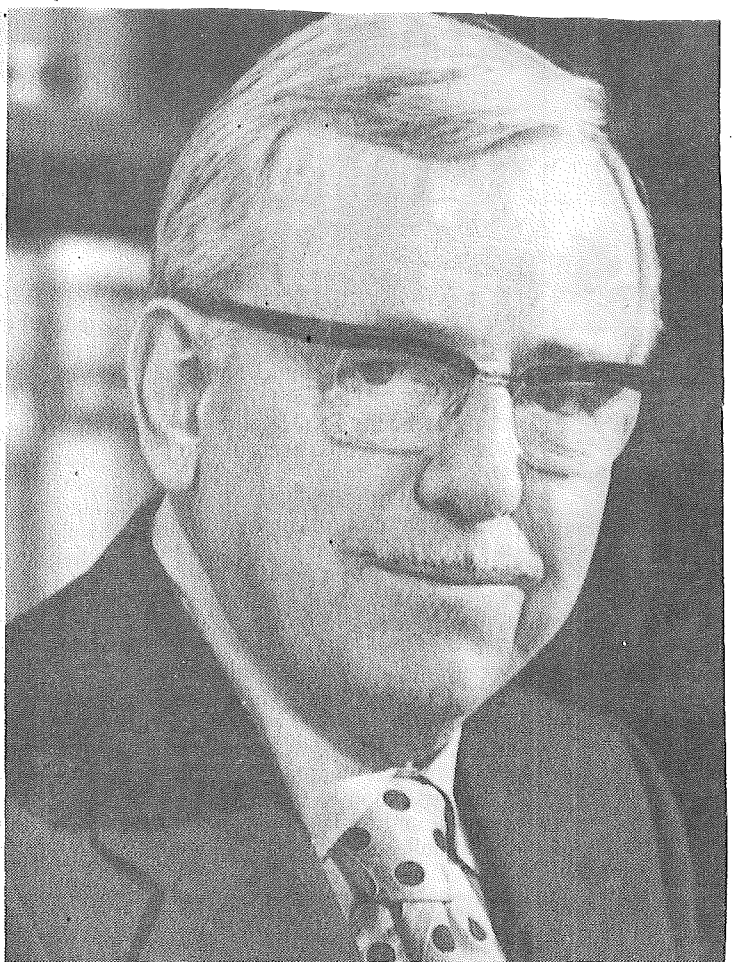
"The Township of Toronto had gone through very distressing times and, in fact, had lost its ability to borrow funds. With the arrival of Bob Speck, backed up by Chic Murray and his financial expertise, the ship was set right again, and fiscal policies that laid the base for today's excellent financial health of the community were put into place," said Parsons.

Said Parsons, "In spite of

Chic's somewhat brusque manner, he was a very compassionate man who would always go out of his way to assist those in need."

The site of Sheridan Villa Nursing Home on Truscott Drive (which houses 242 residents today) was personally negotiated by Murray who bargained the price down to \$5,000 an acre — "a steal even back then," said Parsons.

Longtime friend and neighbor Ken Rowe, a former Mississauga industrial commissioner, recalls Murray's first venture into municipal politics. Five Applewood Hills neighbors who shared an interest in local government, threw \$10 apiece into a pot, and Murray ran.



CHARLES (CHIC) MURRAY

## Hundreds attend Murray funeral

By CAMERON RENTON

More than 300 people attended the funeral Monday of Charles (Chic) Murray, a former mayor of Mississauga.

A resident of Mississauga since 1954, Murray entered municipal politics in 1958

as a councillor in Toronto Township's Ward 3.

His position as Ward 3 councillor was the start of a long and successful political career here.

In 1960 he was elected Deputy Reeve and

remained in that position until January 1, 1968 — the year the Township of Toronto became the Town of Mississauga. Chic Murray became the first Reeve of the new town.

When Mayor Robert W. Speck died in April 1972, 107 days after undergoing a heart transplant, Murray received unanimous support of his fellow members of council to take over leadership of the town of Mississauga.

Murray was defeated in a municipal election 18 months later by Martin Dobkin, who became the first mayor of the City of Mississauga. One year later he again entered politics, winning the Ward 3 by-election. He finally retired from politics in 1976.

Born in Toronto on February 9, 1914, Chic Murray spent most of his business life in sales. His ability in business was shown by the fact that he was vice-president of the Erie Iron Works and president of Mississauga companies Gibb Manufacturing and J.R. Clark Manufacturing.

Chic Murray leaves sons Chad, Jim and Bob, daughter Sue and eight grandchildren. His wife, Josephine, died in 1979.

A fund has been established for Diabetes Education at the Credit Valley Hospital in memory of Charles (Chic) Murray. To obtain information on the fund, call the hospital at 848-5000.



Hundreds of friends, relatives and colleagues of former Mississauga mayor "Chic" Murray turned out to pay their last respects at Monday's funeral.

(Staff photo by Fred Loek)