

Obituary

Parsons was 'First Lady of Peel'

PEEL BIOGRAPHY
PARSONS, Carol

By JOHN STEWART

Staff
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Surrounded by the family she nurtured and loved for so long, Carol Parsons died Nov. 18 after battling cancer for more than two years.

Her husband, Lou, the founding chair of the Region of Peel, and her five children were at her bedside at the home of her daughter, Joy Ann, in Falls River, Nova Scotia during the last week of her life. Parsons was 71.

"She had the knack of being good to people," said Lou Parsons, a former Town of Mississauga councillor, president of Orion Bus Industries and chair of GO Transit. "She was stalwart and practical and she got along with people from all walks of life."

The couple, who had retired to their home in Bala, Ont., celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary one month ago. Lou Parsons met the former Carol Ann Berringer while she was visiting relatives in Ontario in 1957. He soon began to visit her regularly in her hometown of



Winnipeg. They were married by Archbishop Philip Pocock in Winnipeg on Oct. 25, 1958 and lived on Lakeshore Rd. in Port Credit while Parsons established a career in real estate, and then politics.

When former Premier William Davis appointed Parsons Regional Chair in 1973, his wife was kidded by her friends about becoming "The First Lady of Peel."

Her sons, Michael, Tom, David and Tim are all realtors in Mississauga, following in their father's footsteps.

"She was the backbone of our family," Michael said. "Family was first in her life and she was a great example for all of us."

Lou and Carol Parsons were longtime parishioners of St. Christopher's Church in Clarkson and he was awarded the Pro Ecclesia Medal by Pope Paul II in a special ceremony presided over by the late Emmett Cardinal Carter in 1985.

The funeral will be held tomorrow at 11 a.m. at St. Christopher's Church.

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