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Cy Saddington: Port Credit's first and last mayor

By FRANK TOUBY

There were no strong issues when James Cyril (Cy) Saddington first entered Port Credit politics in 1942 as a village councillor.

Saddington became the Town of Port Credit's first mayor in 1961. Yesterday he became Port Credit's last mayor as the former town merged with the new City of Mississauga under regional government.

"I got into politics because it was something I felt like doing," says Saddington. "There were no issues in the election. I can't recall who I beat for the office."

The village was small then.

"I remember that the parks budget was about \$300," says Saddington.

After his term as village councillor, he dropped out of politics until 1947 when he was defeated by Ralph Finkle for the council seat.

"I ran again in 1948 and got back on council," he said. "There weren't any issues. The people just elected me."

He dropped out the next year but ran again in 1950 and was elected deputy reeve.

Saddington remained in that office until 1953 when he

became reeve. In 1954 he was Peel County warden, as well as Port Credit reeve.

In those days the village had only three councillors, a deputy reeve and a reeve. Until it was dissolved Jan. 1, 1974, the Town of Port Credit had four ward councillors, a deputy reeve, reeve and mayor.

Saddington says he is astounded at the growth of the little town which now has reached a 10,000 population and could rise by another third if several proposed high-density housing projects are completed.

"Back in 1952 when the

sewers were put in we were forecasting a population of 6,000 and people thought we were nuts," he said. "That was before 1958 when Toronto started to grow.

"We were the first town to have sewers and we had our own water works. We sold water to Toronto Township.

"We didn't know in 1966 that the shape or content would be of regional government, but we realized that more services had to be administered at the county level," says Saddington.

"We never game a thought that Port Credit would disappear. But we now have a region and it's up to all of us to see we get the proper services to all in the region."

Saddington was born in Almonte, Ont. in 1911.

He studied accounting at the University of Toronto in 1929, and in 1930 he moved

with his parents to Port Credit.

"Financial woes took me out of university and I apprenticed as an accountant and became one in 1939," says Saddington.

He started his own practice in Toronto in 1941 but his career was disrupted by a stint in the army where he served three years as a captain in the Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps., travelling through England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

In 1946 he restarted his practice in Toronto, with an office also in Port Credit. Two years later he confined his practice to Port Credit.

"I got tired of commuting to Toronto," he says. "Even back then we had a commuter train to Toronto that left at 7 and 8 in the morning and returned in the evenings.

It took about the same time then as now for the trip.

Saddington is married to the former Catherine Smith of Brantford. The couple have five children and four grandchildren.

James, 31, is an assistant manager for a financial institution in Vancouver; Janet, his twin sister, is an art teacher in Toronto; Pat, 30, is married and lives in Owen Sound; Susan, 27, is married and a nurse in London, Ont.; Ron, 24, is a Western University graduate and works for the Department of the Environment.

Saddington says he intends to continue his accounting practice in Port Credit.

"I want to stay interested in the community, but don't see any further role for myself in politics," he says.

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