

# Street named after city's man of steel

Peel Biogr.

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If Ernie Samuel feels like doing a victory lap after recovering from a serious health setback, he now has his own street to do it on.

Samuel, recovering from a subdural hematoma, was on hand yesterday when the street in front of his steel-manufacturing plant, Samuel and Son, was renamed in his honor.

A couple of hundred of the firm's employees cheered loudly as Samuel unveiled a plaque officially naming the road — previously just called a service road off Dixie Rd. — as Ernest Samuel Drive.

Walking gingerly with the help of a cane, a beaming Samuel was surrounded by his children and grandchildren at the ceremony. Early this year he suf-

fered bleeding between the skull and the brain which had to be relieved by surgery.

"We have a man here who's inspired all of us," said Rick Balaz, general manager of the Samuel plant that's been in Mississauga since 1960.

"When I drive in every morning, I know I'll be inspired," said Balaz, who is Samuel's son-in-law.

He thanked Sergio Marinacci, a 24-year employee who came up with the idea for the street-naming five years ago and then ushered it through the approval process. "He got an idea and he made it come together," Balaz said.

Marinacci said later that he had hoped the street naming could take place after one of Samuel's horses won

the Queen's Plate in June. But the denizens of Sam-Son Farms, one of the most successful racing stables in Canada, failed to co-operate.

However, a Samuel horse named Chief Bearhart went on to win not only the Grade 1 Canadian International race at Woodbine in October, but to become only the second-ever Canadian bred to win a Breeder's Cup race. Chief Bearhart won the Turf in November at Hollywood Park.

The only other Canadian winner, Dance Smartly in 1991, was also owned by Samuel. Mayor Hazel McCallion said Samuel and Son has been a great asset to the City. She joked that Mississauga continues to grow so fast to keep the steel manufacturer busy.



Staff photo by Fred Loek

One of Mississauga's long-time industrial leaders, Ernie Samuel, was honored yesterday morning as the street in front of the Samuel and Son steel plant was named after him.

PEEL BIOGRAPHY

SAMUEL, ERNEST

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