

## Former mayor has no regrets after 90 years

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To say that Ron Searle was surprised would be an understatement.

The former mayor of Mississauga was stunned when he was greeted by a roaring crowd of friends and colleagues at his surprise 90th birthday party Saturday night at Villa Sorrento restaurant in Lakeview.

"This was a complete shock for me," said Searle, who served as mayor from 1976-78. "I honestly don't know what to say."

Politicians and well-known members of the community came out to honour Searle; the guest list included Mississauga builder and philanthropist Harold Shipp, former Peel Police chief Bill Teggart and well-known former Mississauga South MPP Margaret Marland, who all spoke about how Searle contributed to Mississauga's development.

It was a night of laughter, fun and memories for Searle and his friends.

As a soldier during World War II, Searle did two tours of duty in France until he was shot in the leg

and sent back to Canada. He came to Mississauga and soon after began to pursue a political career.

Searle ran for the Progressive Conservative Party nomination in Peel in 1965 and finished a distant second. Eventually he was elected the city's second mayor. Since his time in office, Searle has volunteered much of his time to the community, and has worked with many local groups and charitable organizations.

Searle, who was a commissioner with Peel Regional Police before running for mayor, had the know-how to tackle the tough issues facing the fledgling City of Mississauga, said Teggart.

"Ron always faced the city's challenges with courage and great conduct," he said.

The politicians on hand talked about how the former leader had an impact on their lives.

"I can only hope that I accomplish half of what you've done as Mississauga's mayor in my life," said Liberal MPP Charles Sousa, who was a high school student during Searle's time in office.

Searle's son Mark said his father set



Ron Searle celebrates his 90th birthday Saturday with friends and family at his favourite restaurant, Villa Sorrento, on Lakeshore Rd. Here, family friend Cathy Hooper pins on his corsage.

an example for the rest of the city during his time in office and continues to inspire his family with his strength and resolve. "He's done as much for his family as he did for the community."

Searle said he was surprised that so many people came out for his party.

"It's amazing that people remember all the great things about my life," he said.

When he looks back over his career, Searle says he has no regrets. "I would do it all over again if I could," he said.