



Friday was the official opening date for the \$50-million Shipp Centre in Etobicoke. Harold Shipp, son of the late Gordon S. Shipp, told the large crowd on hand at the opening, "this is a grand day for the Shipp family." (Staff photo by Fred Loek)

Shipp opens lavish centre in Etobicoke

The \$50 million Ship Centre in Etobicoke, a joint venture by Mississauga-based Shipp Corp. Ltd. and Mutual Life of Canada held its grand opening Friday morning.

The twin-tower glass and concrete structure, designed by the architectural firm of G. Edward Lutman Assoc. Ltd., is the tallest commercial structure in Etobicoke and a landmark in the career of the late Gordon S. Shipp, founder of the Shipp Corporation.

The centre, at the corner of Bloor St. and Islington Ave., has attracted a number of major corporations to the borough.

Etobicoke Mayor Dennis Flynn has called the Shipp Centre a catalyst for future highrise office development in Etobicoke.

The focal point of the opening, at which Premier William Davis, Metro Chairman Paul Godfrey and Flynn officiated, was the unveiling of a bronze bust of the late Gordon S. Shipp in the mall area of the shopping concourse. The bust is the creation of Port Credit sculptor Louis Temporale and could become as popular as the statue of Timothy Eaton in Toronto's Eaton Centre.

Shipp was urged by his son Harold, 50, to sit for the sculpture before his death in February at 89. Shipp died in his sleep on a business trip to Montreal.

Shipp was born on a farm near Ridgeway Ont., where he worked as a farmer before coming to the city to seek his fortune in 1923.

President and Chief Executive Officer of Shipp Corp. Harold Shipp called it "a grand day for the Shipp Family" during his remarks to the large crowd on hand.

Shipp opens 55
May 6, 1981
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