

TRANSPLANT OPERATION:

New heart success- Mayor Speck 'fine'

Mississauga Mayor Robert Speck, 56, was said yesterday (Tuesday) to be "very satisfactory" and in "good shape", following a heart transplant operation he underwent at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Monday afternoon.

The two-hour operation, carried out by a team of a dozen, led by Dr. Clare Baker, head of the hospital's cardiovascular team, and Dr. J. K. Wilson, chief medical cardiologist, has been termed successful by hospital spokesmen.

Shortly after the operation, a spokesman at the hospital said: "His heart is beating well. Everything is going well."

Plagued with heart trouble for three years, Mayor Speck kept the transplant operation arrangement a secret. Only a week earlier he dampened rumors of that possibility by describing them as "a load of nonsense".

Monday, he received his new heart, donated by the family of a 14-year-old Fuller Ave., Toronto, boy who died of injuries after being hit by a subway train at Toronto's Runnymede Station on Friday.

The boy, Richard Wolniewicz, died shortly before his 15th birthday.

Mayor Speck has been in St. Michael's for almost three months.

Monday night, Streetsville Mayor Hazel McCallion said: "The town of Streetsville, the present and the new councils and the residents of this town, join in wishing Bob Speck a speedy recovery."

She said the town would be making a donation to the Heart Fund as a tribute to Mayor Speck, rather than sending flowers to the hospital.

Mayor Speck is Metro Toronto's seventh heart recipient and Canada's 18th.

The transplant operation is the third carried out by Dr. Baker at St. Michael's.

The first one he conducted on Nov. 18, 1968, when the recipient was Charles Perrin Johnston, 54, a retired engineer, who was the 13th heart recipient in Canada and the 81st in the world.

Mr. Johnston still survives and is the longest surviving heart recipient in Canada.

He is now back at St. Michael's suffering from chest trouble which, according to hospital spokesmen, has nothing to do with his heart which is described as being "strong and well."