



APR. 6, 1972

L.P.C.

John Speck 6/72

Pneumonia, ulcer blamed

Received new heart, Mississauga mayor dies

Robert Speck, the 56-year-old mayor of Mississauga, died early yesterday in St. Michael's Hospital 107 days after he received a heart transplant there.

A post-mortem examination revealed he died of "ulcer complications and severe pneumonia" and that death was not directly related to the heart transplant. The heart was transplanted on Dec. 20 from a 14-year-old boy who was struck by a train.

A spokesman for the hospital said that "the heart was clinically functioning well, rhythm was good and there was no evidence of heart failure."

The spokesman said that when Mr. Speck was released from the hospital last Friday, there was no evidence of pneumonia, nor that the ulcer was troubling him, although it was known he had ulcer problems.

Mr. Speck returned to the hospital on Tuesday night complaining of stomach pains. His wife, Enid, drove him to the hospital. She described him as still weak after returning home but up and about and happy to be at home.

Mr. Speck had suffered from heart trouble for some years. He was taken to hospital a week after he was acclaimed as mayor of Mississauga—for his second term—in December, 1970. He left the hospital and presided at the inaugural council meeting on Jan. 4 last year and on the same night he suffered his third heart attack and was admitted to St. Michael's Hospital.

He was discharged later that month but on Sept. 30 he was re-admitted to the hospital and was there on Oct. 16 when opening ceremonies were held for the \$1-million, five-story Mississauga municipal building off Highway 10. The building and 10-acre site



Robert Speck

were named the Robert Speck Civic Square.

On Dec. 20, Richard Wolniewicz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wolniewicz of Fuller Avenue, died after he was struck on the head by a subway train when he leaned forward from a platform of the Runnymede subway station.

The transplant took place that day and the cardiovascular team at St. Michael's Hospital was headed by Dr. Clare Baker. The operation lasted three hours.

Mr. Speck was the third patient to receive a heart transplant at St. Michael's Hospital.

Rev. Edward Madigan, 51, underwent the surgery in April, 1970, and Perrin Johnston, 57, a retired engineer, had the transplant operation

in November, 1968. Both are alive.

The only other Canadian heart transplant survivor is John Parkinson of Montreal who received a new heart 41 months ago. Since 1966, there have been 187 heart transplants in the world and 28 patients are still alive.

On Jan. 18 Mr. Speck held a press conference at the hospital and he told reporters: "I feel 10 years younger than I have for a long, long time. I'm great, just great."

Mr. Speck, born and raised in Clarkson and educated in Clarkson and Port Credit, owned a vegetable-and-fruit stand before he entered public life more than 16 years ago.

He served in many offices. In Toronto Township, he was a councillor in 1956, a deputy reeve from 1957 to 1959 and a reeve until 1968 when the new Town of Mississauga was created and he became its first mayor. He served on Peel County Council since 1957 and was warden of the county in 1963. He also served as chairman of the Township of Toronto Hydro in 1965, was an executive member of the Ontario Good Roads Association in 1966 and 1967, and was a member of the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Board for seven years.

Mr. Speck was also a member of the Mississauga Golf and Country Club, the Credit Valley Golf Club, the Port Credit Yacht Club and he was an honorary director of the Professional Golfers' Association.

During Mr. Speck's illness,

which lasted more than a year, Reeve Charles (Chick) Murray served as acting mayor. Under a bylaw peculiar to Mississauga, passed on Jan. 29, 1968, after Mr. Speck returned from an illness, the reeve automatically becomes mayor when the mayor is absent from the municipality or ill.

Last December, Mr. Speck was granted another three-month term of absence, and he continued to draw his \$13,500 annual salary as mayor and another \$1,200 for serving on the Police Commission.

Besides his wife, Mr. Speck leaves two sons, John, 29, and Paul, 17, and a daughter, Marilyn, 25.