

# The last farewell to Robert Speck

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Staff Writer

Three Mississauga police officers and three members of Mississauga fire department carried the body of Mayor Robert W. Speck to his final resting place, Saturday, after hundreds of friends, relatives and associates gathered in the Turner and Porter Chapel to pay tribute.

Many people who knew and respected Bob Speck started filing into the Hurontario St. funeral home before 10 a.m., although the services were not scheduled to start until 11 a.m. They sat in silent tribute to the man who, for the past 12 years, led this town in a very strong and dedicated manner.

Between 10 and 11 a.m., hundreds of people came into the chapel and a number of rows of additional chairs were required to seat them at the back of the room.

Just before the start of the service, a number of dignitaries, led by Ontario Premier William G. Davis, were ushered into a special block of seats near the front of the chapel. Then, the Rev. Bob Oliver, formerly of Christ Church in Clarkson, a long-time friend of Mayor Speck and his family, opened the service.

Rev. Oliver made glowing tribute to the outstanding contribution which Bob Speck made to the development of this area. He made special note of Mayor Speck's "indomitable spirit" in everything he did and went into some description of his early life on the farm in Clarkson and his later move into politics.

"He had a certain feeling for people," Rev. Oliver said. "He understood people generally and served them well as reeve of the Township of Toronto and later as mayor of the Town of Mississauga."

After the service, the pallbearers carried the body of Mayor Speck from the chapel.

They were followed by the honour guard, made up of members of Peel County Council, the Mayor of the City of Barrie, who is present head of the Ontario Association of Mayors and Municipalities, Roy McMillán, former deputy-reeve of Mississauga, and town manager Dean Henderson, representing the town staff. Honorary pallbearers were the remaining nine members of Mississauga council.

The funeral procession,

more than 100 cars long, travelled down Highway 10 to the QEW, west to Mississauga Rd., south to the South Service Rd., west to Clarkson Rd. and then south to Silvercreek Cemetery where Robert William Speck was laid to rest while hundreds of Mississaugans and others stood in silent tribute.

Many hundreds attended the funeral services for Mississauga Mayor Robert W. Speck last Saturday morning.

They came from near and far — and they came from all walks of life.

Many of those who came to pay their last respects were leading figures in the political and business world. They came because they knew and respected Bob Speck. Others were ordinary people who had also cherished a strong liking for Mississauga's mayor.

Among the dignitaries who joined together to mourn the passing of this man were Ontario Premier William Davis, Peel South MP Hyl Chappell, Peel South MPP Doug Kennedy and Ontario Hydro Chairman George Gathercole.

Hamilton Mayor Vic Copps, Oakville Mayor McLean Anderson, Milton Mayor Brian Best and the mayors from Alliston and Whitby were also in attendance. From the neighbouring Metro borough of Etobicoke there was Mayor Ed Horton and Controllers John Carroll and Don Kerr.