

Mayor Speck honored in Saturday ceremony

The dedication ceremony for the Robert W. Speck Civic Square at City Hall will be held this Saturday at 11 a.m.

Born and raised on a 175-acre fruit farm located in the Clarkson area of Mississauga, Speck served as mayor for five years before his death on April 4, 1972.

Mayor Ron Searle, who will host the dedication and who served on Mississauga Town Council with Speck, said yesterday that Speck "was the perfect transitional leader at a point in time when the municipality was evolving from a rural to an urban state."

While on occasion Searle and Speck were political adversaries, they always maintained a friendship.

"He was a man who never let political partisan philosophies or preferences interfere with the execution of his political duties," the mayor said.

"I hope a large number of his friends and colleagues will turn out and honor the man who contributed so much to this municipality and all of Canada," he said.

Speck became involved in politics in 1956.

During the following 16 years he advanced on the Township of Toronto and Town of Mississauga Councils from Councillor (1) to Deputy Reeve (3), to Reeve (7) and finally to the office of Mayor (5).

Searle described Speck

as "a leader, a hard working man, a man who possessed integrity, and a man who was truly dedicated to the well being of his growing community."

Speck married Enid Pattinson in 1939 and had three children; John, Marilyn and Paul.



Robert Speck shown in happier days during a Town of Mississauga council meeting, with his characteristic cigar in hand, Speck was known for the way he "ruled the roost" at council.



Robert Speck, shown with his family, only days after receiving the heart transplant which made news across Canada. Shortly after this photo was taken, Speck was able to go home, but only a few weeks later he was dead.

Paul Speck - Biography, 2001
M.H. June 3, 1977
Speck, Robert