

Peel Biry. BK.

April 10, 1982 MW

SPENCER, Doug

Pilot was down-to-earth councillor

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NOT FOR CIRCULATION



Doug Spencer left politics when Streetsville died and is today, an Air Canada supervisory pilot.

Whenever the old Streetsville council meetings started to get a bit out of hand, Ward 3 councillor, Doug Spencer could be counted on to become the unofficial mediator in the dispute.

Spencer was one of those councillors who did his homework before those Monday night meetings in the old town hall. And homework it was, as the usual agenda was often about one-inch thick and it took most of Doug's Friday night to read.

"I wonder today how they can prepare for the meetings . . . with the wards of Mississauga so large," he says.

Born and educated in Alberta, Doug Spencer joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1951 where he spent a lot of time on trainers and got into the role as an instructor, something very similar to what he does today as a supervisory pilot for Air Canada.

After his hitch was up, Spencer went to Trans-Canada Airlines, later to become Air Canada, flying commercial aircraft such as DC-3, Vanguard, Viscount, Nor-

what are they doing now?

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thstar, DC-8 and DC-9.

It was after the former Town of Streetsville was amalgamated with Mississauga, that he received a substantial promotion to supervisory pilot, a job he still does today being in charge of the pilots on DC-8 aircraft.

"We've come a long way . . . did you know that the intake of the engine of one of our 747s is as big in diameter as the fuselage of the old DC-3?" he grins.

And we have come a long way from 1971 when Doug Spencer was appointed to fill a council vacancy.

Doug and his young wife, Shirley, had come to Streetsville in 1959. When A.V. Roe Canada folded, there were a number of houses up for sale and Doug was able to get one. In those years the Spencers raised three girls, all of whom are now married. Doug and Shirley are the grandparents of four and a fifth is due in just about a month.

In addition to representing Ward 3 in Streetsville, Spencer was the head of the police commission and was very involved in the town's budgetary control procedures.

It should be noted that Spencer was responsible for the first ever day-care centre being set up in Peel.

"We were very good with money in the town . . . We were able to get a number of things, like the day-care centre, because we were run well and we were just about the right size," he said.

"We accomplished a lot because we were close to the people and we knew what was going on," he said.