

Paul Dixon TOVEY, Jim

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'ROCK STAR' JIM TOVEY JOINS WALK OF FAME HE CREATED

MUSIC MEMORIAL PAYS TRIBUTE TO LATE WARD 1 COUNCILLOR AND LOCAL ROCKER

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Jim Tovey collected his microphone and his amplifier and headed for the door.

He was off to practice in downtown Toronto on a Sunday afternoon with The Primitives, a band he sang with for two decades.

"OK honey, I'm off to church," he told wife Lee as he left his Lakeview home.

It was a joke but it also the truth.

The late Ward 1 councillor, who died Jan. 15,

prayed at the altar of rock and roll most of his life. He sang with several bands in his Malton neighbourhood and Toronto, then launching his career as the frontman for Hott Roxx, a Rolling Stones tribute band that toured extensively for a decade.

In a ceremony filled with reminiscence and rhythm, Tovey was inducted July 22 into the Mississauga Music Walk of Fame, which the councillor created in Port Credit Memorial Park to celebrate local musicians.

Former Triumph drummer and Metalworks studio founder Gil Moore, one of those recognized in the walk's first class of 2012, said it "clearly wouldn't exist" without Tovey.

"He suggested a 'pilot project' that - like so many of his experimental ideas -

has turned into something pretty permanent," Moore said. "The rest ... is history, our collective musical history celebrated."

After Tovey's sudden death, it was decided there would be only one induction this year. The stone, unveiled yesterday afternoon by Mayor Bonnie Crombie and Tovey's wife Lee, reads "Founder, Musician and Inspiration."

Tovey, who had his first solo performance as an altar boy at Our Lady of the Airways church, performed with a popular Malton band of the late 60s called The System.

Former System guitarist Brian Smith, now a music promoter in London, Ont. recalled that Tovey's ability to "scream" in the James Brown style, caught the group's attention.



John Stewart/Photo

Lynn Judge (left) and Shafeah Yasseen worked in the Ward 1 office with Councillor Jim Tovey as he established the Mississauga Music Walk of Fame. They were on hand Sunday as the late councillor joined the list of local musical greats on the path he created.

"He was born to be a frontman," recalls Smith. "He could quickly get people in the palm of his hand."

Cliff Hunt, a 2016 Walk of Fame inductee, said he

son, who performed with Tovey many times, joked about Tovey's talents. "I don't like it when politicians sing better than I do," Jaskson said.

The Downchild Blues Band frontman performed the song "Mississippi Woman, Mississauga Man," from Downchild's most recent album, to honour the Toveys.

Paul Dixon, who played in several bands with Tovey before drumming on Downchild's "Flip Flop and Fly," flew in from Nanaimo, B.C. for the ceremony.

The Primitives performed two songs featuring Tovey lyrics. The event closed with a rousing version of "Gimme Shelter" with Jackson, Liberty Silver, and selection committee members Patti Jannetta-Baker and Arlene Paculan leading on vocals.

Ellen Timms, recently retired general manager of the Port Credit BIA vowed that her group, which co-sponsors the event with the Ward 1 office is "committed to keep this thing going."

Inductee Chuck Jack-