

# Councillor's job was core's completion

Peel Biog. Sk.

Mar-13-82 MN



Jim Watkins helped in the revitalization of the Streetsville core area.

Those who enjoy the quaint sidewalks and striking street lighting in the old Streetsville core, must give part of the credit to Jim Watkins.

Watkins was the head of the Core Area Study committee which, during the last three years of the former Streetsville council, was heavily immersed in following up on several years of work dedicated to revitalizing the downtown area.

He was born in Toronto and his family moved extensively when he was younger. While most of his life was spent in and around Ontario, it was in old Toronto Township where he graduated from Port Credit High School. From there he joined the Navy, flying submarine-tracking aircraft off the old Bonaventure until he left the Navy in 1961.

While out in British Columbia flying a Cessna, Jim tried to get an airline flying job, but it was during days when pilots were being let go. So he flew the mountains looking for forest fires. It is of interest that he still retains his commercial flying licence although he doesn't fly much anymore.

It was during 1961 that a friend suggested he try chiropractic college, should Jim's attempt to get into dental school not work out. It evolved that he entered

## what are they doing now?

chiropractic college in the building across Bloor St. from Varsity Stadium which is now OISE. He not only enjoyed the learning, but excelled, winning two scholarships in the process.

In 1966 he graduated, and after some looking around, decided to bring his wife and settle in Streetsville where he opened for business out of the Dominion Plaza on Queen St.

Always interested in civic affairs, the plans to reconstruct the core area started a process which led him to be nominated for the Ward 1 council seat in 1971. He ran and won.

He also was a member, and helped dream up the name, for SCORE, Streetsville Citizens Organized for Retention and Expansion. This was a grassroots

movement to add the Meadowvale area to Streetsville and form a new community west of the Credit River rather than be absorbed into Mississauga under regionalism. Although the movement and its hopes failed, Watkins still believes this would have been the best solution to have followed when Region boundaries were being established.

Watkins is no longer practising but is executive director of the Canadian Chiropractic Association, the body representing Canada's more than 2,000 chiropractors. His duties take him to Ottawa and the provincial capitals to represent the views of the association. In fact, his work, as well as being administrative, is partially political, so it could be said he still keeps a hand in.

The father of four children, two of whom still attend Peel secondary schools, Watkins finds his duties at the association offices in Toronto are demanding more and more of his time. It could mean a move closer to Toronto, but that remains in the future.

But Watkins and former council colleague Fred Kingsford do have a fun idea to reunite the old council for one more session. We'll bring you more on that in later editions.

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WATKINS, Jim