



Heart donor Richard Wolniewicz was a happy, fun-loving boy. He is shown here with younger sister Annette, 12.

Taking a fishing trip with his father was one of Richard's happiest times. He proudly displays two fish which they caught on one trip.

Remembrance of a happy Christmas of the past, Richard Wolniewicz is shown standing beside the family Christmas tree.

Mayor Bob Speck's heart donor was to turn 15 on Tuesday

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Richard Wolniewicz was to have celebrated his 15th birthday on Tuesday of this week. This young Toronto student's life was cut short, however, when he died in St. Joseph's Hospital at 10 a.m. Monday from injuries received when he was struck by a subway train at the Bloor-Runnymede station. Four-and-a-half hours later, an operation was started in St. Michael's Hospital to transfer the heart of Richard Wolniewicz into the body of Mississauga Mayor Robert Speck who had been in hospital for nearly three months. The three hour transplant operation was described Monday night as successful. "Blood pressure is normal and the heart has been beating on its own since a little after 5 p.m. Monday," a hospital official said. Richard Wolniewicz was the son of Mr. and

Mrs. Joseph Wolniewicz of Fuller Ave., Toronto. He was a Grade 10 student at Western Technical and Commercial Secondary School. A keen athlete, he was hopeful of becoming an engineer. He was, according to his parents, only an average student but he had been working hard to succeed. The decision to donate his son's heart and kidneys was made by the boy's father, who felt that if he could help someone else, "let it be God's will". The Wolniewicz's have three other children, Christine, 18, John 13, and Annette, 12. The young heart donor was critically injured last Friday when he leaned over the edge of a subway platform to watch the train coming in. He was struck by the train and suffered severe brain damage. The boy was in critical condition in St.

Joseph's Hospital and his parents had been informed on Friday afternoon that their son had very little chance of survival. The news of his death came Monday morning... and it was then that Mr. Wolniewicz was asked about donating his son's heart and kidneys. The heart transplant began about four hours later. The boy's kidneys were used for transplants at the Toronto General Hospital and at the University Hospital in Cleveland. A 10-year-old girl was the recipient of one of his kidneys in the Cleveland Hospital. That operation took place yesterday (Tuesday) Mrs. Wolniewicz declared that she doesn't want to know the recipients of her son's heart and kidneys. "I just want them to be healthy and happy," she said.

Wolniewicz, Richard