

Traffic Safety Council founder gets a surprise

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For a man who has done so much for Mississauga in the name of safety, an birthday party seemed like the least they could do.

Dr. Art Wood, the founder of Mississauga's Traffic Safety Council, turned 80 recently and found a surprise birthday celebration was waiting for him on the big day — June 19.

"He was really surprised," said Greg Dell, chairman of the safety council.

In a ruse to get him to the party, Dell told Wood he was needed at a traffic safety meeting.

"He said he couldn't go because he had his family in from Texas. Then he walked over, with his gardening clothes on," Dell said. Wood, a former pediatric dentist who's best known for developing protective head and

facial equipment for athletes, said he was very surprised.

"I didn't know about it at all. I thought I was going to a meeting, but then I saw all my friends," Wood said.

"It was nice to see all those people, some I haven't seen in years."

The Traffic Safety Council makes recommendations to city council that are designed and intended to protect students from the



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dangers of vehicular traffic.

The council honored its founder with a birthday celebration to recognize his accomplishments and his devotion to the safety of children.

"He's a genuinely caring person...he really concerns himself with people's safety," Dell said. "He's inspired all the members of the council to achieve."

Since its inception, the council has worked towards resolving traffic and busing issues around schools, and was the driving force behind providing crossing guards near schools and the development of the Kiss and Ride program.

In fact, Wood, who is known affectionately within the group as "Dr. Safety," devised Kiss & Ride.