

Obituary

Life-long community service came naturally to Art Wood

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By JOSEPH CHIN
Staff

Dr. Arthur Wood was the recipient of countless awards for his accomplishments during his lifetime, including the Order of Canada, the country's highest honour.

But Mississauga was his hometown, which he loved passionately, and which he served until his last day.

Wood died July 11 at age 89.

Now the City will pay him one final tribute. Although plans are not as yet finalized, the City is thinking of some way to recognize him, said Mayor Hazel McCallion at Wednesday's city council meeting.

"What a great loss. He left a real legacy for us," she said.

Other councillors joined McCallion in remembering the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

Wood's accomplishments

include co-founding the Mississauga Traffic Council almost 50 years ago, for which generations of schoolchildren, past and future, should be thanking him. He was made a permanent member of the body in 1988.

Over the years, Wood not only helped develop a complicated system for determining whether crossing guards should be located at contentious corners, he personally spent hundreds of mornings in the cold, snow, and wind making site inspections.

Those inspections made for some memorable moments, recalls Ward 9 Councillor Pat Saito.

"Art didn't mince words...he was very blunt," she said.

Wood was also instrumental in establishing the Kiss & Ride program, of which there are more than 100 in the city currently.

While he is known inside

Mississauga primarily for his volunteer work in traffic safety, Wood's national and international reputation were built on his work in developing, producing, and testing protective devices for athletes.

Stunned by the constant parade of mouth injuries when he was coaching hockey in Cooksville in the 1950s, the pediatric dentist and his neighbour, Charlie Patterson, pioneered the first mouthguard for hockey players. Cooksville became the first league in the world to make mouth and head protection mandatory.

"I remember when I saw 250 mouth injuries in one year. I'm happy to say I haven't seen one in 12 years," Wood once said.

From that start, Wood helped to form what became the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

He received the Order of Canada medal in 1991.