

30 January 2023

Statement on Hazel McCallion's passing

Hazel McCallion served the people of Mississauga as a public office holder for nearly a half century. Few elected officials in any democracy can claim to have had such a lengthy record of electoral success. Hazel McCallion's successes were many and hardly exclusive to the ballot box.

Having been Mississauga's Mayor for 36 of 49 years since amalgamation in 1974, she presided over extraordinary growth in the city. From a city that had a population of a quarter of a million people when she took office to becoming a city today of over 700,000, Hazel led efforts to attract people and businesses to the city.

She understood the importance of business in fueling prosperity and economic growth that contributes to a high quality of life for the residents of Mississauga. Indeed, Mississaugans were beneficiaries of that outlook having seen many multinationals locate here. In that light, Mississauga has become home to many corporate headquarters. She helped attract those corporations – and the jobs they created – through developing strong relationships for the city internationally. Additionally, throughout her time in public life, Hazel was always a strong supporter of small and large business and, specifically, the Mississauga Board of Trade – both as Mayor and in the years following her retirement. She saw the Board of Trade as a key player in Mississauga's economy.

Hazel McCallion's efforts to attract people to the city were tied in with her embrace of Mississauga's diverse communities. She regularly participated in festivals and saw the city's many communities as a key competitive advantage.

Outside of her duties as Mayor, she was a strong role model and mentor to many, particularly young women. Many people across Canada and around the world have fond memories of her and will likely express them in the coming days as we will at the Mississauga Board of Trade.

On behalf of Mississauga's business community, thank you, Hazel.

May she rest in peace and may her memory be a blessing to us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor McPherson'.

Trevor McPherson
President & CEO
Mississauga Board of Trade

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Rhone'.

Steve Rhone
President
Weston Forest Products Inc.