

One last ride to the office for Merritt

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April 3, 2009 08:31 AM - Merritt Henderson will pay one more visit to Trillium Health Centre this morning, where his funeral procession will sweep by the front of the building while hospital employees come outside in the rain to pay tribute to their long-time leader.

Henderson, the Lorne Park resident who was president and CEO of Trillium from 1965-94, died at his home Monday at age 76, after an 11-year battle with Parkinson's disease.

Several of the lead cars from the funeral procession leaving the Turner and Porter funeral home located just south of the hospital will divert from their route to the funeral long enough to run past the main entrance of the hospital.

"You are invited to come outside ... to say goodbye to Mr. Henderson," hospital staff were told in a memo earlier this week.

Henderson's personable management style and open-door policy made him a favourite with staff at the hospital.

The last salute at Trillium will be followed by a funeral at St. Christopher's Church on Clarkson Rd. N. at 10:30 a.m.

Donations may be made in Henderson's honour to the Trillium Health Centre Foundation, Hospice of Peel or the Parkinson Society of Canada.