

She's everybody's sweetheart, says MPP

<http://www.mississauga.com>

By: John Bkila

February 15, 2009 09:43 AM - A crowd that included family, friends and many fans gathered at the Trillium Health Centre yesterday to celebrate Mayor Hazel McCallion's 88th birthday.

"Her youthful nature is an inspiration to us all," said Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa. "It's very fitting that she celebrates her birthday on Feb. 14 because she's everybody's sweetheart."

The usually outspoken first lady of Mississauga was almost at a loss for words during the birthday celebrations.

"I can't believe all this," said McCallion. "It's brought tears to my eyes seeing all the people that make this community great here today. The police, fire department, the cadets."

The unveiling of the sign on the hospital's north wall telling the community about the Hazel McCallion Centre for Heart Health just made the occasion even more special. "I feel so honoured to have my name on the building. But it's my name on the care this centre provides, that's what it really means to me," said McCallion. "I've had many blessings in my life and this is one of them."

In November 2008, 88 days before Mayor McCallion's 88th birthday, the Trillium Health Centre Foundation challenged the community to demonstrate their love for the mayor by making a donation to the Hazel McCallion Centre for Heart Health.

Yesterday, the foundation announced they had reached the \$12 million mark towards their \$15 million goal.

Anne Sado, vice-chair of the Trillium Health Centre, said it was special to celebrate the two momentous occasions at the same time.

"I think everyone loves the mayor. She's such a tour de force," said Sado. "The mayor is so much a part of the community, as is the Trillium Health Centre, so there's a source of pride to be able to celebrate the two together."

But what's a birthday celebration without presents? Well, there were numerous gifts. McCallion was presented with a certificate making her an honorary doctor of hearts, complete with her own lab coat and stethoscope.

McCallion said her secret to reaching age 88 is working hard and eating well. "Growing up on a farm, we ate plenty of fish and organic vegetables," she said. "A good foundation of good food, that's what does it."

Over the past two weeks, Mississauga's mayor has attended 10 birthday celebrations across the city and that's a lot of birthday cake.

"I appreciate it, but I could never eat that much cake," the mayor said with a laugh. McCallion said she was planning to celebrate her birthday at home last night by cooking dinner for her family.

"But don't worry," she said. "They'll be the ones cleaning up."



Staff photo by Daniel Ho

Lauren Zvaniga, the prime minister of Hazel McCallion Senior Public School, presents Mayor Hazel McCallion with a canister of loose change collected from students of the school for the I Heart Hazel campaign during the Mayor's birthday celebrations at the Trillium Health Centre yesterday.

InFocus galleries and Photo/Video galleries not yet posted.

http://www.mississauga.com/news_home

McCallion uses birthday to promote heart health

Updated: Sat Feb. 14 2009 6:40:35 PM

ctvtoronto.ca [video is available at this page]

http://toronto.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20090214/mccallion_bday_090214/20090214/

Mississauga's Mayor Hazel McCallion marked her 88th birthday being serenaded by the "Heart and Soulz" choir from a high school named after her while at a heart health centre named after her.

McCallion unveiled signage at the Hazel McCallion Centre for Heart Health at the Trillium Health Centre on Saturday.

"I can't think of a better way to celebrate my 88th birthday," she said.

She asked for people to make donations in lieu of birthday gifts to the centre.

Born in the Gaspé Peninsula town of Port Daniel, Que. in 1921, work brought McCallion to Ontario.

Her involvement in civic politics began in 1967. McCallion has served as mayor of Mississauga since 1978, marking her 30th anniversary in November. Since then, the city has grown from about 300,000 people to more than 700,000.

She made a name for herself early on when a freight train pulling tanker cars full of toxic chlorine gas derailed on Nov. 10, 1979, forcing the evacuation of 220,000 people.

McCallion sprained an ankle at one point during the crisis and got about on crutches. Her dynamism earned her the nickname "Hurricane Hazel."

Her husband Sam died in 1997. She has three children and a granddaughter.

Son Paul said his mother is still going strong because she has passion for her public duties, with a day that starts at 6 a.m. and ends at midnight.

"This is what she does. She enjoys it so much, she has so much spirit for it, that it's what makes her get up in the morning," he said, adding, "She goes better than I do -- and I'm 40 years younger!"

"I know there are some people who would like her job, but she's not about to step aside and hand it to them -- and they're not foolish enough to run against her," said radio broadcaster Ted Woloshyn, a friend of McCallion's.

The mayor offered this advice to potential successors.

"I would say offer themselves to the people. I always have respect for the choice of the people," McCallion said, adding she will run again if her health permits.

With a report from CTV Toronto's Zuraidah Alman and files from The Canadian Press



Mayor Hazel McCallion of Mississauga attempts to blow out the candles on a huge birthday cake at an event held on Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009 to mark her 88th birthday.

Hurricane Hazel Celebrates Birthday, Valentine's Day And New Health Centre

Saturday February 14, 2009
CityNews.ca Staff

http://www.citynews.ca/news/news_32116.aspx

It was all about heart for Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion on Valentine's Day - for more reasons than one.

The woman nicknamed the Hurricane celebrated her 88th birthday on Feb. 14, but that's not all - she also unveiled a new sign for a health centre created in her honour.

The Hazel McCallion Centre for Heart Health, part of the Trillium Health Centre - Mississauga, was the scene of the birthday bash.

There was a school choir and a band, but no gifts.

In lieu of presents, McCallion asked for donations for the centre. The "I Heart Hazel" campaign will allow for new equipment and equipment upgrades, new programs, and more research.

If you'd like to help, [click here](http://www.ihearthazel.com) [www.ihearthazel.com] to find out more.

Hurricane Hazel turns 88

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Last Updated: 14th February 2009, 12:59pm

<http://www.torontosun.com/news/torontoandgta/2009/02/14/8394431.html>

Feisty Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion is celebrating her 88th birthday today with plenty of heart.

McCallion, a Valentine's Day baby who has run the city for three decades, will unveil signage at an advanced cardiac care facility.

She'll then be serenaded by "Heart and Soulz" choir from a city public school named after her.

McCallion, who has served as mayor since 1978, is also known as Hurricane Hazel for her vibrant style of no-nonsense politics.

She's often remembered for overseeing the orderly evacuation of hundreds of thousands of residents after a train derailment sent chlorine into the air early in her career.

In lieu of birthday gifts, she asks that donations be made to the I Heart Hazel campaign in support of the Hazel McCallion Centre for Heart Health.