

Adamson linked us

to the city's past

Peel Biography
By TOM MICHIBATA May 16/01
Staff M N

A valuable link to Mississauga's past has been lost.

Thompson "Tommy" Adamson, known to many as "Mr. Erindale", died yesterday of heart failure following hip replacement surgery last Thursday. He was 89.

Adamson was known for his brilliant recollections of the history of this area, particularly Erindale, and he made every effort to pass on his knowledge to organizations like Heritage Mississauga, the Mississauga South Historical Society (MSHS) and St. Peter's Anglican Church.

His contributions to Heritage Mississauga were immeasurable. Over the years he provided the organization with information and numerous slides and photographs, helped with their outreach kits and spoke at a number of lectures. Appropriately, some of those slides and photographs will be included in a presentation at Heritage Mississauga's annual general meeting today at the Springbank Art Centre.

"Tommy was a pillar of history and knowledge," said Heritage of Mississauga administrative assistant Cheryl Seaton. "Everybody loved him."

Adamson was also a charter member and past president of the MSHS formed in the mid 1960s.

In 1997 he received a lifetime service award from the Mississauga Heritage Foundation, recognizing his efforts to retain the area's past.

Last year students from Erindale Secondary School produced a video capturing Adamson's history.

"He was a loving father and a loving husband," said his daughter Joan who

resides in London, England. "He was well-respected and a very likable man. He loved his community, church and friends."

Plaudits from others who knew Adamson poured into *The Mississauga News* yesterday.

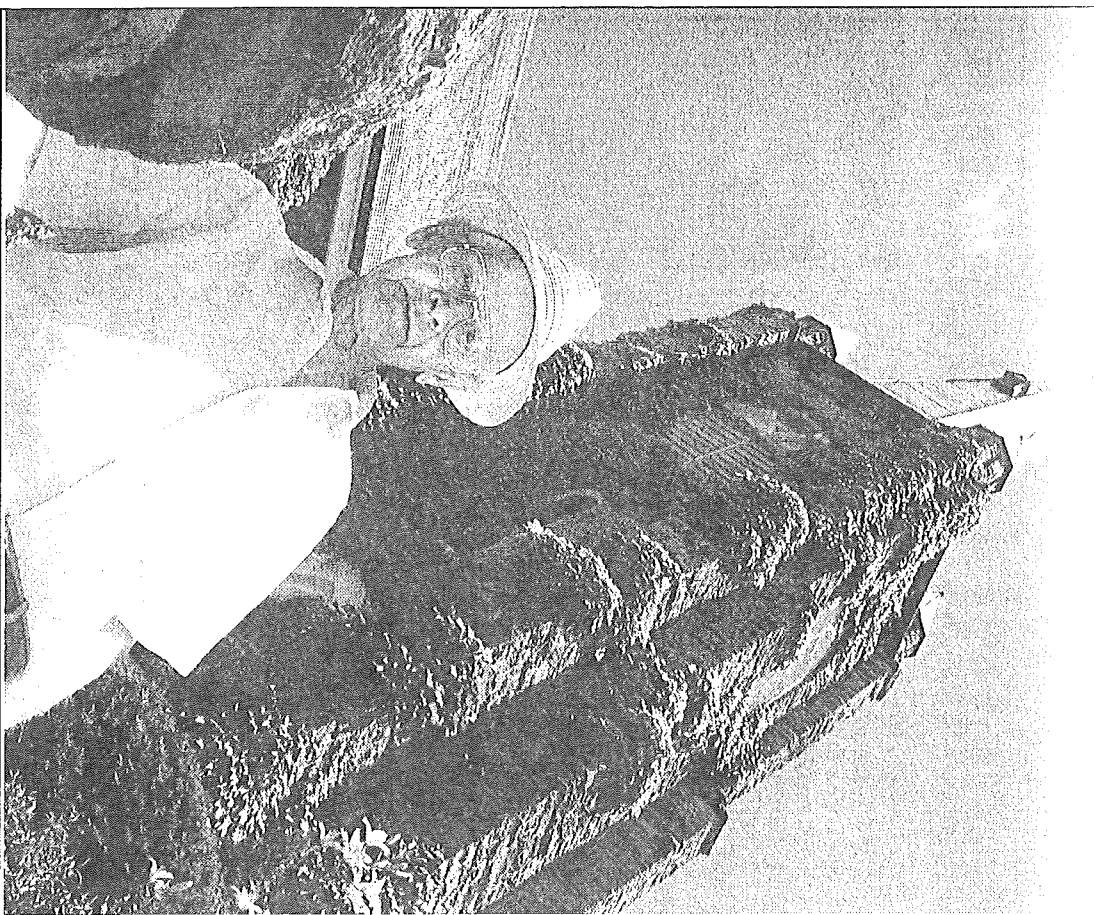
"He was a wonderful fellow," said MSHS past president and current member Bill Lawrence who got to know Adamson when he moved to Mississauga in 1950. "He would be the man when it comes to Erindale's history. He did a great deal of investigation into the history of the area. One of his pleasures in his later years was to go around to the schools and tell the kids how things were."

In recent years Adamson worked on a museum located at the base of the bell tower of St. Peter's Anglican Church.

"He is one of those people who makes an indelible mark on your brain," said local historian and MSHS member Alan Skeoch whose latest book *Mississauga: Where The River Speaks* has a section devoted to Adamson. "He was so proud of his museum at St. Peter's but he showed an interest in other people. He led an rich life but what impressed me when I first met him (in the late 1970s) was the fact he was interested in me."

Adamson was born on March 12, 1912 on the family farm in Erindale that is located on land that is now occupied by Erindale Secondary School and Peel police's 11 division.

Visitation is at Neweduk Funeral Home at 1981 Dundas St. W. tomorrow from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. The funeral service will be held at St. Peter's Anglican Church Friday at 2 p.m. Adamson is survived by his wife Jean, his son Robert and his daughter Joan Tucker.



Tommy Adamson in front St. Peter's Anglican Church where he established a museum.