

Peel Biog BK
May 18-90
MISSISSAUGA
NEWS
DYCHE, BILL

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Long-time community volunteer loses 18-month battle to cancer

Mississauga has lost one of its great volunteers.

Bill Dyche, 73, died Monday after an 18-month battle with cancer.

Dyche had volunteered with innumerable local organizations over the years. The hospital where he died, Credit Valley, benefited enormously from his fundraising efforts as part of the Optimist Club.

Dyche's volunteer efforts were so extensive that not even his wife Helen can give a full accounting of them. She said yesterday that her husband had brought joy to many other lives through his contributions to various community organizations.

Perhaps his greatest gift to others, said his wife of 50 years, was his sparkling sense of humor. He was a particular friend to senior citizens, she recalled, often driving cancer patients to Toronto for treatment and dropping in at local senior citizen centres.

In a typical announcement of his arrival, Dyche made his entrance to a local senior citizen centre (where he intended to help out) by announcing to the delight of the predominantly female residents that "I'm here to find a rich widow."

Before his illness, Dyche was "pretty much a fixture" at Cable 10 Mississauga recalled Tony Lawrence of the station. "He did a little bit of



**BILL
DYCHE**

everything," said Lawrence, from acting as a cameraman at city council meetings to co-hosting and co-producing the *Seniors Speak Out* show. "He did camera. He did audio. He did pretty well anything anybody asked," said Lawrence of the man who won a special contribution award at the station in 1988. "This was his second home."

Just before he became ill, Dyche was to take over as Mississauga president of the British Heritage Institute. He had returned a short time before from a trip to England and Wales where he carried greetings from Mayor Hazel McCallion, a good friend of his. Dyche was McCallion's driver during the 1985 election campaign.

A long-time resident of Mississauga, the Dyches have lived at 50 Mississauga Valley Blvd. for the past 14 years where Bill was active in the recreation program, often organizing children's parties. He is also the former president of the Peel Condominium Association.

When Dyche retired at age 50, sons, Bill, Bob, and Gerald, took over his television repair business. The Dyches also have a daughter, Margaret Nickel, and 16 grandchildren. Funeral services were held Wednesday. Dyche was buried in the historic Dixie Union chapel.

Helen Dyche, who was with her husband when he died, said that — in his typically thoughtful way — he had prepared a tape for her to play after he died. In it, he explained how blessed he had been to have such a fine family.