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# Erindale scholarship to honor memory of farmland protector

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By Allan Thompson Toronto Star

An environmental studies scholarship has been established at Erindale College in memory of a woman whose life's work was protecting area farmland from becoming part of the concrete jungle.

Verna Flowers died suddenly last Dec. 8. She was an ardent environmentalist best known for her decade as chairman of the Association of Peel People Evaluating Agricultural Land — APPEAL.

Flowers led the battle to save prime farmland in Mississauga by forcing a lengthy Ontario Municipal Board hearing that was eventually won by the developers.

Later she launched a five-month OMB hearing in protest of the development of 4,000 acres of farmland in Brampton. Again, the developers won.

In Caledon a month-long OMB hearing resulted in the preservation of 600 acres of agricultural land. But that decision was thrown out after the Ministry of Agriculture and Food withdrew its support. A second hearing will take place May 23.

"Verna's courageous fight to save the foodland consumed long hours of every day and night," says Irene Garrett, a friend and fellow APPEAL member.

"It's sad they were so often losing battles, but we should cherish her memory and her wonderful efforts to preserve our vanishing foodlands nonetheless," Garrett says.

Flowers often addressed students about the importance of saving farmland.

"She dedicated her life to a deep-rooted caring for her community and to the welfare of the next generations," Garrett says.

The memorial scholarship will be presented first in June, 1990, to a top-ranking environmental studies student at Erindale.



**VERNA FLOWERS: Her battle to save farmland won't be forgotten.**