

Dead at 99

Peel Br. 8/95

Harry Hassall founded Cooksville legion branch

The man who was synonymous with Remembrance Day in Mississauga will be missing this year's ceremonies.

A special place of honor had been reserved for Vimy Ridge veteran Harry Hassall for Saturday's services at city hall, before Hassall died Sunday at Faith Manor of complications brought on by pneumonia. He was 99.



The organizing committee for Remembrance Day had unanimously agreed that Hassall would be given the rare honor of laying a wreath after only the presentation by the Queen's representative.

"He affected many people's lives," his daughter, Margaret Beardall, said Monday.

Despite failing health in the past few years, Hassall was prominent at memorial services every year and returned to Vimy Ridge in 1992 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the battle.

After lying about his age, Hassall joined the 26th New Brunswick Battalion and fought at Passchendaele, Vimy Ridge, Ypres and Aras, where he was wounded.

He became a market gardener in Cooksville. He also prospered in the flower business. His son Harry still runs the family business.

A long-time supporter of the Canadian Legion, Hassall was the president of the Port Credit branch before founding the Cooksville Branch, where he also served as president.

Over the years, Hassall won the Legion's LSMS medal, with palm leaf, for meritorious service, and the Paul Harris fellowship from the Rotary Club.

Hassall's wife, Gladys, died in 1992. He is survived by children Jack, Audrey, Margaret and Harry, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held this afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at the Baptist Anglican Church, 719 Dundas St. E.