

May 2/01 MN

History writer Hicks an Arts Award winner

Kathleen Hicks has been making her mark by writing about Mississauga's history. Now she's made a little history of her own.

Hicks, 70, recently won one of 10 Mississauga Arts Awards that go to local artists. She took home this year's Literary Award.

Born in Lakeview, Hicks grew up in Port Credit, where she was married and moved to Cooksville. She has two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Hicks became known as an editorial columnist with *The Mississauga News* from 1972-'77. Her interview column was dubbed *A VIP and Me*.

VIP, in this case, stood for "Very Interesting Person."

In fact, her second book, penned in 1998, was an extension of those columns entitled *Kathleen Hicks' VIP's of Mississauga*.

During the course of her career, Hicks interviewed the founder of the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain, Colonel Harland Sanders, who lived in Mississauga.

Hicks started writing poems and children's stories in 1962.

"I was first published in *Humpty Dumpty*, a children's magazine, but didn't get serious about writing until I



HICKS

joined *The News*," she said.

Hicks started the first Canadian Lioness Club in 1975, sat on the Mississauga Gardening Council for seven years, and was the first female governor on the Mississauga Symphony's board.

She also wrote every cover story for *Mature Lifestyles* for two years.

Hicks enjoys writing immensely.

"It's a daily thing with me and I never get writer's block," she said.

Her first book, *The Silverthorns: Ten Generations in America*, was published in 1996.

Her third book, *The Life & Times of the Silverthorns of Cherry Hill*, was published in 1999.

"I do in-depth research," she said. "It's a big responsibility to be writing history, but I feel I'm doing a good community service, so I don't care how long it takes."

Her fourth book, *A Pictorial History of Clarkson*, will appear next year.

"I've uncovered lots of pictures covering Clarkson's history from the 1808 arrival of settlers to the present," she said.

Hicks has a five-year contract with the Mississauga Library for a series of 10 books covering our city's history.

"I'm working on Meadowvale now," she said, "then Port Credit, Lakeview, Dixie, Cooksville, Erindale, Streetsville, Malton ... and a book on street names."

Hicks was more than pleased to get this year's Literary Award, which she received at a gala celebration last week at the Living Arts Centre.

"I was just thrilled," she said.