

Rattray Marsh loses most avid supporter

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Staff Writer

Those who knew her best say Dr. Ruth Hussey will be remembered as the woman who would not give up the fight to save Rattray Marsh.

Dr. Hussey, 68, who died at her Watersedge Rd. home July 28 from cancer, was known affectionately as "the guardian angel" of the marsh.

Rattray Marsh, which currently is a haven for animals, birds and insects was once in danger of falling to the ravages of development. It was the diligence and persistence of a group of residents, led by Dr. Hussey that saved Rattray from becoming just another subdivision.

Forty years ago when the marsh was still owned by Major Rattray, Dr. Hussey used to enjoy walks through the marsh. She was determined this tradition should not end upon the death of the Major, and she saw to it that other Mississaugans could share in the beauty of Rattray.

Until just before her death, neighbors could still see the diminutive Dr. Hussey striding through the marsh for miles on end enjoying the wildlife around her.

At the time of her death, Dr. Hussey was working on a book detailing the history of Rattray Marsh. Friends say the book was near completion and will be published posthumously in her name.

As an extension of her love for the marsh, Dr. Hussey was past president of the South Peel Naturalists Club and chairman of the Rattray Marsh Protection Committee.

Rattray Marsh was not Dr. Hussey's only love. Until seven months ago, she was an active volunteer at Sheridan Villa where she ran a fitness program for seniors.

She was also an active worker at both Christ Church United and Clarkson Rd. Presbyterian Church.

As modest as she was about her own accomplishments, the community was always quick to praise her works. Dr. Hussey was



Dr. Ruth Hussey was best known for her fight to save Rattray Marsh from developers.

the recipient of the Conservation Award from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and was the 1983 Mississauga Senior Citizen of the Year. She was also a finalist for the Mississauga Citizen of the Year.

Dr. Hussey graduated from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in England in 1937. She came to Canada with her husband, Bryan, and began a part-time practice as a veterinarian.

While her four children, Nigel, Christopher, Adrian and Miriam were growing up she was a Cub leader.

"She will be missed by friends, neighbors, naturalists and other people who are champions of environmental causes," said a close friend.

But Rattray Marsh will not go unprotected; friends feel the guardian angel is still watching over Rattray.