

# Birdman <sup>1975</sup> — now 95 — makes birthday wish

The Birdman of Mississauga, Canada's dean of ornithologists, Roy Ivor, celebrated his 95th birthday, Friday, and his birthday wish was to see his Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary continued should he die.

Four years ago as he celebrated another birthday, things looked very dim for the man who had devoted his life to caring injured birds back to health.

Two weeks before his birthday, a flash fire ripped through his old home and it killed many of the birds in the sanctuary including several rare hawks, eagles and owls.

But the fire did have a good side. It started a tide of publicity which turned Roy into almost a legendary figure.

The Roy Ivor Fund was started. Plans were made to build a hospital and new aviaries on the site.

People started reading the books he had written. Although the Russians recognized him as one of the leading experts in the world on bird healing he was largely unknown in this country.

This changed. He was given the Order of Canada last year for his research by a grateful government. The University of Windsor granted him an honorary doctorate. A full length documentary film was made during the past year to preserve the Birdman of Mississauga for future generations.

There has been much controversy regarding the future of the sanctuary and the many plans. The hospital for birds still needs \$20,000 to bring it to the \$40,000 construction price. Developing of the land for housing is steadily encroaching on the sanctuary.

And at 95, Roy Ivor even admits he's "not as young as I used to be." He told The Mississauga News that his one hope is that the sanctuary will continue in the event of his own death.

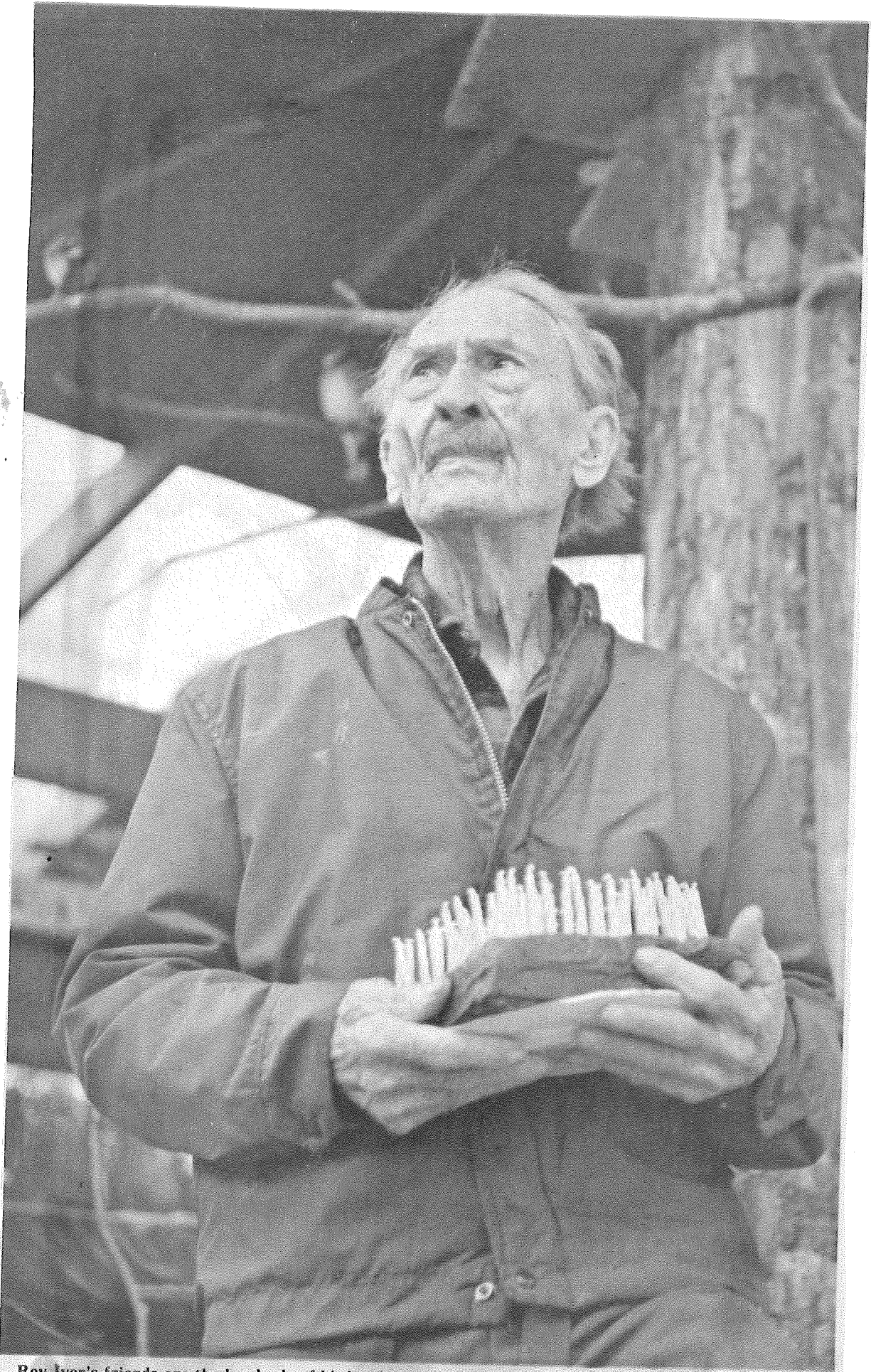
When we brought him a birthday cake with no less than 95 candles crowded onto it, Mr. Ivor said he would wait until his friends arrived. He meant his feathered friends.

Roy does have other friends. Mrs. Bernice Inman, from Streetsville, is his closest friend and confidante. In addition to Bernice, there are now several volunteers who give their time to the sanctuary.

He has no idea how many injured and dying birds have been brought to him. It could be in the thousands. Some say he treats up to 2,000 per year.

But the fact remains that Roy Ivor and the Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary have become part of Canadiana.

May his birthday wish come true!



**Roy Ivor's friends are the hundreds of birds who have become his family in Mississauga's Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary. Mr. Ivor saw in his 95th year, Friday, but waited to light the birthday cake with 95 candles until the birds flew in to join him.**

**(Mississauga News photo by Michael Stuparyk)**