

'Birdman of Mississauga' passes away

Roy Ivor: a legend in his own time

By CATHY WEBB

Roy Ivor, a leading bird-expert and founder of the Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary in Mississauga, died Monday evening at the age of 99.

Dubbed the Birdman of Mississauga by his admirers, Ivor had a long and distinguished career in the field of ornithology. In January, 1975 he was awarded the Order of Canada for his research on birds and wildlife. He was granted an honorary doctorate by the University of Windsor. A full-length documentary film was made of his life and his work.

Ivor was the author of *I Live With Birds*, published in 1970. He wrote numerous articles on birds for the *National Geographic* magazine and his findings were often quoted by other experts as far away as Russia.

Ivor was one of the first experts to warn of the dangers of DDT and its effect on wildlife. He lobbied governments and was successful in his effort to have the insecticide restricted in use.

Roy Ivor was born in Strathroy, Ontario on January 3, 1880. He and his parents moved to Moosejaw, Saskatchewan shortly after and it was here that his love of birds was born. As a teenager in Moosejaw, Ivor's hobby was collecting bird eggs. Some of his rarer discoveries are still on display at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Following his father's death, Ivor and his mother moved to Toronto, settling in Erindale in 1925. He lived with his mother until her death 23 years ago at the age of 105.

Ivor's devotion to the study of birds was a full-time occupation. Throughout the years he operated a number of businesses, but his love of birds always took first place in his life.

He purchased the three-acre site on Mississauga Rd. in 1925, which eventually became the Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary.

Although he originally started the sanctuary as a place to study the behaviour of birds, Winding Lane soon became a haven for injured animals, some of whom he had found, others that the community brought him.

A quiet man with a sense of humor, Ivor's friends became the thousands of birds he treated every year. When, on his 95th birthday, *The Mississauga News* bought him a birthday cake he declined to cut it until his friends arrived. He meant his feathered friends.

Ivor is survived by three nephews, Hugh Ivor of Mississauga, and Roy Ivor of Ohio, and two nieces, Helen Johnstone of Mississauga, and Margaret Conklin of Owen Sound.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at the Lee Funeral Home, 258 Queen St. S. in Streetsville. He will be buried at the United Church cemetery in Erindale.



Affectionately known as the Birdman of Mississauga, Roy Ivor died Monday shortly before his 100th birthday. A leading expert in the field of ornithology, Ivor devoted his life to the study and care of birds. He is shown here at the age of 93 with one of his feathered friends.