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Streetsville historian

Link to the past severed with passing of Manning

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As a historian, one of Mary Manning's goals was to uncover a photo of the man her cherished village of Streetsville was named for.

"After all the work I have done researching Streetsville's past, that one, finding out what Timothy Street looked like, continues to elude me," Manning told *The News* in the mid-80s.

Sadly, Manning never achieved that goal. But she achieved hundreds of others and the legacy she has left us with will fill the void of history buffs and researchers for decades to come.

Manning, considered Streetsville's definitive expert of events, landmarks and personalities died suddenly and quietly in June.

She is survived by her husband Hugh. The couple had no children. Her age has not been revealed.

Despite her wealth of knowledge, Manning was a classy and humble sort because she didn't flaunt her expertise. In fact, she would always try to downplay her value as a member and official archivist of the Streetsville Historical Society (SHS).

It's no surprise then that the funeral was held with little fanfare at St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Hornby. There were no flowers or visitation.

Manning's efforts haven't gone unheeded, however. She was cited in the 1996 Ontario Heritage Foundation community recognition program, received a Paul Harris Fellowship award from the Streetsville Rotary Club and earlier this year received a heritage award from the Mississauga Heritage Foundation



Mary Manning's legacy will be the historical work she had done on the village of Streetsville.

(MHF).

The Fellowship award is the highest honor given to Rotarians or non-Rotarians who make "significant contributions to the community."

When he presented her with the MHF laurels, president Alex von Gernet called Manning "a real institution in the community."

Manning's accomplishments in preserving Streetsville's past are numerous:

- builder and organizer of its archives.
- she served on the Heritage Advisory Committee from 1975-1986.

- helped found the SHS in 1970 and was a member until her death.

- had six written works — the Streetsville chapter in the Peel County Centennial History, A Village Library Grows, Water Mills in Streetsville, A History of Streetsville, Inns and Hotels of Streetsville 1824-1924 two editions of Street, the Man, the Family, the Village which focuses on the Street family which developed the area which has become the City of Mississauga and prepared a history of the Tipperary Switzers who settled there.

- editor of the Streetsville Cenotaph booklet

- organist at St. Andrew's Church from 1939-1952

- was a librarian, board member and building committee member of the Streetsville Library

- was a member of the Mississauga Architectural Advisory Committee from 1974-1985

"I don't know anybody with more knowledge and dedicated to the preservation of Streetsville than Mary Manning," said long-time SHS member Jean Watt who was a Brownie during the years Manning was a Brownie leader in the 1940's. "Even when she was a Brown Owl (leader), she was a wonderful story teller. She was a wonderful, super person. We will miss her terribly. She has left a big hole in this society."

Born in Esquesing Township as a descendant from Irish pioneers, Manning lived on Thomas St. for nearly her entire life.

As for the elusive photo of Street, Watt said the least the SHS can do is to continue the search on behalf of Manning.