

Mary Manning's contributions recognized at tree dedication

By MIKE BEGGS
Special

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M.V.*

Streetsville said a special goodbye to one of its best friends last Sunday at the Pioneer Cemetery.

The Streetsville Historical Society (SHS) staged a Memorial Dedication to honor and remember Mary Manning, who was long regarded as the village's foremost archivist. The ceremony was held a year to the day she died.

In her memory, they donated a Maple tree, a park bench and plaque reading: "Mary E. Manning, November 5, 1919 to June 29, 1998, historian, author and gentle loving friend of Streetsville."

Born into a pioneer family in Esquesing Township, Manning spent virtually her entire life at 13 Thomas St. An only child, she inherited all her

(Switzer) family archives, and would eventually accumulate a truck full of records by the time of her death. They were left to the Region of Peel Archives.

Manning was a co-founder of the Streetsville Historical Society in 1970, served as president in 1985-86 and rarely missed a meeting.

SHS president Norman Potts knew the shy, always helpful Manning since his school days.

"She did a wonderful job as official SHS archivist... she had all the pictures. If anybody had a problem they could call Mary," he said. "It's an awful hole in our organization."

Manning was the author of such books as: *A Village Library Grows*, *Water Mills In Streetsville*, *A History of Streetsville Inns & Hotels* and two editions of *Street: The Man, The Family, The Village*.

Manning also served as organist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church from 1939-52, as a librarian, board member and building committee member for Streetsville Public Library, and, as a member of the Mississauga Architectural Advisory Committee from 1974-85.

Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, who is out of the country, sent a special message to Sunday's ceremony. As a former Mayor of Streetsville, McCallion worked with Manning for many years.

"Both of us shared a bond for Streetsville, and we became lifelong friends," McCallion said. "Mary was an author, an archivist, but above all, she was a pillar of the community. Mississauga is truly indebted to her and she will not be forgotten."

In the mid-1990s, Manning was honored with awards from the Ontario and Mississauga Heritage Foundations.