

Goodbye, Mary Manning

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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*.

She penned a history of her own family, *The Switzers*, a Streetsville

chapter in the *Peel County Centennial History* and she was editor of the *Streetsville Cenotaph*.

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."

Ontario Heritage Society executive director Dorothy Duncan called Manning "a role model for all the thousands of Ontarians working in the heritage movement.

"She didn't have this opinion of history with a capital 'H' that happened somewhere else, like Paris. Mary believed history happened here in Streetsville, in her town, and in doing so, she made a tremendous contribution," Duncan said. In the mid-1990s, Manning was honored with awards from the Ontario and Mississauga Heritage Foundations. She is survived by her husband, Hugh.

A memorial to her is on display at the Streetsville Library through the end of August. In the fall, the Region of Peel Archives will unveil the Mary Manning Collection.