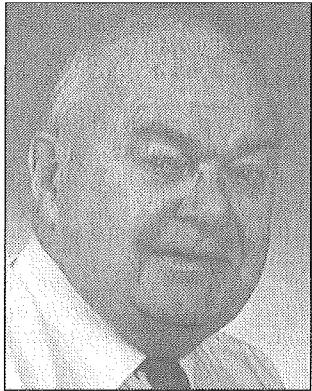


*Peel Biz. Bk.* *June 26-91 HN* *Mansfield, Alex*

# Soft-spoken senior a loud voice for rights



ALEX  
MANSFIELD

By STEPHANIE INNES  
Staff Reporter

Though soft-spoken by nature, Mississauga's Alex Mansfield is a fighting voice for Ontario senior citizens.

Active in the lobbying arena, Mansfield, 77, has for the past 10 years been involved with securing seniors' rights in housing, health, welfare and transportation.

In a ceremony held June 6 at Queen's Park, Mansfield and 19 other Ontario seniors were recognized for acting as, "a collective role model," to the province. The honor they received was a 1991 Ontario Senior Achievement Award, presented by Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander.

Mansfield first became involved

with seniors affairs in 1981 when he joined United Senior Citizens of Ontario Inc. (USCO), an umbrella group for 1,200 Ontario seniors clubs. He took a fast walk through USCO ranks, serving as recording secretary, vice president and as president between 1989 and 1991.

He now represents seniors views on several committees, including the Ministry of Transportation's Transit Task Force, the Region of Peel's Transhelp committee and on the province's Funeral Services Board.

"I don't know the exact statistics now, but when I left my post as (USCO) president (eight months ago), over 47 per cent of Ontario seniors were living below the poverty line," he said. "It's a terrible prob-

lem and we haven't solved it yet, but we're trying."

Still actively involved with USCO, Mansfield acts as a kind of ombudsman for seniors.

"Things are finally starting to come together with transportation," he said. "USCO has been lobbying for years now to get better lighting, better identification on buses, and more kneeling buses."

His current concerns are lobbying the government to cover dental and eyeglass bills for seniors.

"Alex is one person who very quietly, but with a lot of determination, stands up and represents people who really need help," said USCO treasurer Edith Johnston.

"Praise embarasses him (Mansfield)," said Johnston. "This tells us

he's doing the work because he thinks it's the right thing. And even though he is a past-president, he continues to do a lot and is well-respected wherever he goes.

"Sometimes he is slow about getting his point across, but everyone waits to hear because what he says is always so worthwhile," she said.

A retired Goodyear Canada employee, Mansfield is past-president of Local 232 United Rubber Workers Union, a former Long Branch separate school board trustee, and past-president of the Lakeshore Community Credit Union. He is currently secretary for the Goodyear Retirees Bowling Club.

A widower, Mansfield lives in the Orchard Heights area. He has a daughter and granddaughter.