

# Port Credit woman joins Irish marchers for peace

By CONNIE RAE

Helen Tucker, a 72-year-old resident of Douglas Drive, sees the Women's Peace Movement headed by Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan of Ireland, as a chance to do something tangible.

She packed her bags and left Sunday morning to join the march. The Port Credit woman is founding president of the 1960 Voice of Women, and has been active in such international activities as the Experiment in International Living.

"My wife is a 'woman of action'," her husband Bill, said in a telephone interview Monday. "She was tired of old platitudes and was impressed by the power that the two women have wielded. It's a little modern day Joan of Arc appeal, and the great thing about it is that it's not a movement funded by money or power — not Catholic or Protestant — just the common people in search of peace."

When Ms. Tucker left the airport Sunday there were throngs of reporters. Asked if she thought her going would do any good, she replied, "I've been on many peace missions. You're covering this one — you're here. That's progress. I just keep pecking away."

The plane went to New York where 150 people from the United States joined the flight to England, then to Northern Ireland.

People going from England to Ireland are always frisked, said her husband. "Then they ask you whether you're protestant or catholic; if you reply atheist, they ask if you're a protestant or catholic atheist," he said.

"We, being Unitarians, are above the boundaries of religion," he added.

Other Toronto area women joined the Journey of Reconciliation to Dublin, are Mrs. Norman Alcock, co-founder of the Canadian Peace Research Institute of Oakville, Kimberley Garside, 15-year-old student at Branksome Hall, leader of the Young Citizens Movement, and daughter of Dominion store economist, Joan Fielden, and a North York librarian, Ann Harrington Makletsoff.

It has never occurred to me that her life might be endangered, said Ms. Tucker's husband. "I'd be more nervous if she were going to Chicago, Detroit or New York." He did, however, admit an anxious moment when he heard of a Boeing 707 being struck by lightning in Shannon airport.

The women will march in the Valley of the Boyne, the historic site where the protestant William, Prince of Orange, defeated the Catholic pretender to the English throne, James I, in 1690.

Most people tend to see the conflict as religious, said Tucker, but the nice thing about it is that newspapers are beginning to carry headlines for peace.

The peace movement was started last August after Mrs. Williams witnessed the death of three children — her nieces and nephews — after an Irish Republican Army, (IRA) terrorist's car went out of control after British soldiers shot the driver.

A 16-year-old girl and a man were killed in Northern Ireland Sunday in separate bombing incidents, apparently meant for soldiers.

The aim of the peace movement is peace.

Ms. Tucker will return to Mississauga Dec. 6. She is paying for the trip out of her own pocket.