

Firefighter Warner was ready to help

Peel Bio. Art Warner June 18/99 MN

Those who knew Art Warner often referred to him as the City of Mississauga's "best-dressed firefighter."

Arthur Frank Warner, longtime Mississauga fireman and Deputy Chief from 1979 to 1981, earned that moniker during this city's most notorious mishap — the near-disastrous November, 1979 train derailment at the Mavis Rd. crossing.

Warner was called away to duty that chilly night from his son John's wedding, and showed up at the derailment site decked out in a tuxedo.

Warner, who joined the old Port Credit Fire Department as a volunteer in 1935 and served 46 years before retiring in 1981, died Tuesday at Credit Valley Hospital. He was 83.

When he wasn't fighting fires or tackling the administrative duties in the latter years of his service, Warner was thrilling firefighters' children by playing Santa Claus at parties, a role he thoroughly enjoyed for some 25 years.

In fact, family members and friends say the lifelong Mississauga resident took the Kriss Kringle role so seriously that he would begin growing a snow white beard early in the year so it would be a full beard by December 25.

After serving as a Port Credit firefighter for 33 years, Warner became fire chief of that department in 1968. During the subsequent amalgamation of 1974 to the City of Mississauga, he was named assistant deputy chief of the new force until his promotion five years later.

In addition to his professional life, Warner also served his country for three years during WW II in England as a member of the Royal Canadian Engineers.

Warner was also an active member of his community throughout the decades, coaching in minor sports leagues as well as serving on various league executives.

The city's "best-dressed firefighter" also completed a five-year tour of duty as a Credit River lifeguard, served as Hydro Commissioner for the Town of Port Credit and worked for a number of local



Known as Mississauga's best-dressed firefighter, Art Warner came from his son's wedding to help at the train derailment in 1979. He died Tuesday at age 83.

businesses, among them the St. Lawrence Starch Co., Purity Breads, E.G. Donnelly and the West Side Dairy.

Friends and family say Art Warner left a memorable impression upon everyone he knew or met.

Warner leaves his wife Myrtle, sons Jim and John, daughters-in-law Dianna and Penny, brother Harry Warner, sister Shirley Warner Benson, four grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

Funeral services were held this afternoon.

Memorial gifts to the Muscular Dystrophy Association were greatly appreciated by the family.