



## Rare facts and photos donated

# History captured by local author

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Staff

A great private collection of Mississauga history will be presented to the Mississauga Public Library and made available to the public for posterity.

A celebration held at the Central Library last Thursday featured Mississauga author and historian Verna Mae Weeks, who donated working papers and photographs to the library's *Ruth Konrad Local History Collection of Canadiana*.

Looking out over about a dozen thick binders full of photos and press clippings, Weeks said, "This is just part of my Lakeview research. I've got another room full at home."

She expects to move the entire bulk of her research to the collec-

tion, "as soon as possible."

Weeks began, with her husband Roy, dedicating most of their waking hours researching and trying to preserve this area's past, "after my granddaughter came home and said they were doing history at school. They were told to ask a grandparent to tell them some local history."

Having lived here all her 74 years, she realized much of what she knew as a child had was not recorded; in fact, precious few records remained.

"I started asking for stories and then I'd check them against other bits and pieces to make sure they were fact," she said. Using old newspapers and archives across Canada, she and Roy were soon bitten by the history bug.

"If there was information to get,

I'd go and get it, no matter where."

Named after Mississauga's first chief librarian, the *Ruth Konrad Collection* is where you can normally find Verna and Roy during the week.

"We check things back and forth," she said. "If I tell him something or write something it has to be perfect because he can sure pick holes in things. He's good that way. We work well together."

Weeks' attention to detail resulted in her first book, *My Villages Of Mississauga*, published in 1984. That was followed by Volumes 1 and 2 of *Lakeview: More Than Just Land* in 1991. In the fall of 1993 she completed *Lorne Park: Dreams of Long Ago*.

The papers and photos donated to the Konrad Collection last Thursday were used in the Lakeview books.

Currently she is working to complete a major book on Cookville.

"I've lived here all my life but I've found a few surprises. I won't tell what they are, you'll have to read the book, but there certainly were a lot of things even I never knew," she said.

The book should be ready for print by late summer or early fall.

Author and historian Verna Mae Weeks looks over a small portion of her research into the history of Mississauga that she is donating to the *Ruth Konrad Local History Collection of Canadiana*. Working papers and photographs containing pieces of the city's virtually unrecorded past were saved by the life-long resident of the area whose research began as part of her granddaughter's history project.

Staff photo by Rob Beintema