

Erindale will be subject of seventh historical book

Verna Mae Weeks looks



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WEEKS VERNA MAE

The Miss. News

March 5/97

Local author and history expert Verna Mae Weeks is looking to the west for the subject of her next book. She's starting her research about Erindale and the villages of the Credit River.

west for inspiration

By ANGELA BLACKBURN

Staff

Peel Bio. March 5/97

The old saying is, "Go west, young man."

Local historical author Verna Mae Weeks is doing just that for her next book about Erindale.

"With Erindale, a lot has been written about it. I've got to find different things to write about," said Weeks, 77, who has authored six books about the villages that were eventually melded into what's now the grand city of Mississauga.

"We've just started on research for the new book," said Weeks, a Port Credit native who has lived in every corner of Mississauga.

She now resides in Meadowvale.

Born in 1919, Weeks recalls the small villages that formed the former Toronto Township. She has witnessed the vast changes that have taken place and worked diligently to record it all.

"I like to paint a picture of what everyday life was like at a specific time," said Weeks, who relies on historical documents and records, and generally a specific event, to paint that picture.

"I think progress is great. To have what we've got today, we're very lucky. I don't write because those were the good old days, but because I think what has gone before is important," said Weeks.

The woman who typed manuscripts at home while raising a family likens herself to a detective.

Meanwhile, husband Roy has been her friend and helper for 58 years.

A retired foreman at an electrical company, Weeks said her husband is "very methodical," a quality that comes in handy in helping to research

her books.

Weeks said her next book will be shaped by how much new information she digs up.

"There were a lot of little villages. Sometimes you start to write about one area and you get more information on others," she said.

"I like to do each book in a different style. I think for this one, I'll look to the Credit River and the villages along it, the pretty places on the river," said Weeks.

Just last November, Weeks released the latest of her six books, titled *Cooksville: Village Of The Past*. Weeks became an author after her granddaughter, in Grade 4 at the time, asked about the "olden days" for a school project. That granddaughter is now a university graduate.

So impressive was the information she gathered for her granddaughter's project that Weeks was encouraged to produce a book. She hasn't looked back.

Her first book was dubbed *Villages Of Mississauga*. That initial effort was followed by *Lakeview: More Than Just Land*, in two volumes.

Next was *Lorne Park: Dreams of Long Ago* and *Port Credit: A Glimpse of Other Days*.

"It's tough to think of titles," said Weeks.

For the last 15 years, she and her husband spend most every morning researching or writing her books.

It took six years to compile the 300-page book about Cooksville that features some rare photos, but Weeks hopes her next book will be out in 1998.

Her books are available at the Mississauga Library and at local bookstores.