

# ROY IVOR

**Roy Ivor**, affectionately known as the **Birdman of Mississauga**, was a world famous naturalist, ornithologist, founder of the *Windinglane Bird Sanctuary*, author of numerous articles in the *National Geographic*, *Nature Magazine*, *The Auk*, *Wilson Bulletin* and the book *I Live with Birds*, recipient of *Order of Canada* and an honorary *Doctorate in Sciences* from the University of Windsor. But under all his merits and titles, Roy Ivor was a gentle, kind man with a sense of humor who dedicated his whole life to studying and caring for sick birds. An autodidact, Roy Ivor wrote about the emotions and personalities of birds and even their sense of humor! He was amongst the first people who warned the world in 1948 of the detrimental effects of DDT on wildlife. People brought injured, sick or wild birds to Mr. Ivor from all over Canada and even from the United States.



Roy Ivor was born in Strathroy, Ontario on January 3, 1880. Two years later the family moved to Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, where he allegedly started his life long interest in birds. His interest in birds started at around the age of 10 when Roy Ivor became the foster parent of a blue jay that fell out of its nest. In 1925 Roy Ivor moved with his mother to Erindale. In 1928, at age of 49, Roy Ivor sold the family stone and marble business and dedicated all his time to the study and care of wild birds and building the Windinglane Sanctuary. He studied and worked, cared and lived with the birds for over fifty years. During this time, he took care of thousands of birds. His famous studies benefited researchers all over the world and also school children who came to visit him at his sanctuary to learn how to care for and respect birds and wildlife. On his 95th birthday, Mr. Roy Ivor wished for the Windinglane Sanctuary to go on after his death. He died on the 10th of December 1979, shortly before turning 100 and was buried in the cemetery behind St. Peter's Anglican Church in Erindale.

The great love and respect people from all areas of expertise had for Roy Ivor was demonstrated after the first fire that broke out on his property, leaving him homeless and the birds with no shelter. Help poured in from across the country. Students, architects, politicians, all helped rebuild the sanctuary and care for the **Birdman of Mississauga**. The *Globe and Mail* wrote on the aftermath of the fire of December 1970:

“He was a man who made sick birds well; the man who was often seen walking through the woods with a bald eagle, one wing crooked, hopping along at his side. Here was a man who knew a lot about nature before ecology entered the popular vocabulary- a man with a reverence for living things”.