



ROBERT A. GIVEN

b. 1924

To call Robert “Bob” A. Given passionate about Etobicoke is an understatement. He studied Etobicoke history and amassed a veritable library of books and information on his community. In 1950, Given’s book *The Story of Etobicoke* was published to commemorate the Centennial of the Incorporation of the Township of Etobicoke. It went into a second printing twenty years later. At the age of eighty-three, in 2007, Given published his second book, *Etobicoke*

Remembered. It was an ambitious undertaking, which covered 25,000 years of Etobicoke history in just under 250 pages. The book was written in longhand and typeset by his wife Joyce, the book’s assistant editor.

Given’s love of Etobicoke history was sparked in his early teens and remained with him throughout his life. Though his official career was in advertising with Eaton’s department store, away from work he indulged his passion for history through his writing and involvement with several organizations. For a number of years, he wrote a popular weekly column on Etobicoke history in the Etobicoke Press, a local newspaper. He was a member of the Ontario Genealogical Society and a charter member and president of the Etobicoke Historical Society. At the inaugural meeting of the Historical Society in 1958, he became the Society’s historian and continued to hold that position throughout the decades of his membership. He also served as chair of the Heritage Etobicoke Foundation.

For his contributions to the preservation of Etobicoke history, Given was inducted into the Hall of Fame in its inaugural year. In 2008, at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Etobicoke Historical Society, he was presented with the Jean Hibbert Memorial Award for his outstanding contributions to historical awareness and heritage preservation in Etobicoke.

Inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame in 1974