



VERA ALICE HALHED

1914 – 1996

In her thirty-five years as an Etobicoke resident, Vera Alice Halhed devoted countless hours to numerous community causes. She was a founding member of the Etobicoke Historical Society, worked as the editor of the Etobicoke Press and wrote for the Toronto Daily Star and the Toronto Telegram. She was also a convenor of the Etobicoke General Hospital, a charter member of the Queensway General Hospital auxiliary and a strong advocate for patients' rights in the early 1980s.

Halhed was an art lover and a competent painter. She was an original member of the Etobicoke City Hall Art Gallery Committee, which founded the gallery in 1976, creating an ongoing public venue for visual arts in Etobicoke. She was also a member of the Etobicoke Art Group. During her time with that group, she successfully lobbied to obtain a small house in Neilson Park called The Willows, which was used as a space to hold art classes for the growing group. Halhed was also successful in her efforts to preserve significant heritage buildings, including Montgomery's Inn, for useful and educational purposes.

All levels of politics were important in Halhed's life. Over many years, she was involved as a campaign worker and community activist. She expected a lot from her politicians and was not reluctant to share her views.

Halhed was known for working tirelessly for others but never sought recognition for herself. Though her efforts contributed to the establishment of the Etobicoke Hall of Fame in 1974, she refused to be inducted into it in 1987 when her name was put forward. However, that honour was eventually bestowed upon her after her death in 1996. At the time, Etobicoke City Council noted that "her contributions to Etobicoke live on in testimony of her spirit and energy. For her commitment to Etobicoke, Vera Alice Halhed is inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame."

Inducted into the Etobicoke Hall of Fame in 1997