

**Tribute to Dr. McKenzie (Mac) Hey
1927-2007**

Presented at the June 5, 2007 Annual General Meeting
London Council for Adult Education

“Education is a social process, education is growth, education is not a preparation for life, but is life itself.”

While preparing Mac’s tribute, I was impressed by how his activities reflected John Dewey’s observations about the importance of education. Mac, in his work with the London Council for Adult Education, challenged us all to strive for excellence.

Mac was a member of the Technology Department at The Faculty of Education at The University of Western Ontario. In this position, he was competent, thorough and efficient. He never forgot his roots as a high school teacher, though, and a constant focus in his life was on learning. This interest drew him to the London Council for Adult Education in 1980.

From 1983 to 1985, Mac was the Chair for LCAE. During his tenure, Mac worked to establish task-oriented committees based on specific goals. This approach would target groups with special needs in the London community, which was a sensible strategy for a group with a long history of modest funding.

At the end of his chairmanship, Mac encouraged the Council to be “pro-active rather than reactive”. For those of us who are cautious, Mac challenged us to struggle with new ideas that would make the Council become more visible locally, provincially, and nationally.

In 1988, Mac was made an Honorary Life Member of the LCAE, and joined Beryl Treloar, Bob Stinson and Reverend Charles Scott.

In other areas of his life, Mac was a leader. As a member of Siloam United Church, he was responsible for developing several adult church-based learning programs. An eternal Optimist - in every sense of the word - Mac helped to create educational opportunities in the London community.

After retiring from the university, Mac maintained his personal commitment to

learning. After age 50, he worked on, and completed, a doctorate from the University of Sarasota. He served as the Coordinator of Graduate Studies at the University of Sarasota. During this time, Mac continued to forward written reports to the LCAE.

For 16 years, Mac has been auditor for the LCAE, presenting financial statements at the year-end meeting. He finished last year's meeting commenting that he'd continue the appointment if he got two times the amount of money he was currently receiving, and the Chair quickly agreed!

Mac worked in a variety of social organizations to promote adult education and also to lend a voice when others could not speak. He helped advance social causes, and raise our awareness of the obstacles faced by adult learners. London and the Council benefited greatly from his valuable contributions.

To Dr. McKenzie Hey, education *was life itself*. If we can take his passion for education and apply it generously to our own pursuits, we will indeed honour his memory.

-Jill Slemon
Centre for Lifelong Learning