



**T H E P I E R G R O U P . C A**

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## *Port Hope loses a Heritage Icon*

**Mary Ellen “Mell” Chapple**

**October 17, 1945 – January 7, 2011**

**The Pier Group** is saddened to share the news of the passing of our fellow Steering Committee member, **“Mell” Chapple**.

Mell was an educator, a heritage activist, independent business owner, research consultant, project manager and above all, a true friend who not only loved life and her family but loved the challenges of defending Heritage.

As the poem “The Dash” by Linda Ellis puts it;

*“For it matters not how much we own; The cars, the house, the cash,*

*What matters is how we live and love And how we spend our dash”*

Mell passed away on Friday, January 7, 2011 after suffering from cancer. She is survived by her daughter Sarah and her brother Tim McKinnon, as well as her father, all of British Columbia and her son Sandy of Port Hope. As well as being a wife and mother, Mell was an accomplished professional. She was especially proud of her involvement with the *Stephen Lewis Foundation*; *Architectural Conservancy of Ontario* both locally and as a Provincial Conference organizer; *ICOMOS Canada* committee member; and Past Chair of *Port Hope LACAC*. She was an educator, in the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board in Special Education; a researcher with the *Ontario Ministry of Culture* and a founding member of *Heritage Ontario*.

Mell was a recipient of the *Volunteer Service Award*, Town of Port Hope; *Award of Appreciation*, Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services; *Volunteer Award*, Province of Ontario; and *Outstanding Service Award*, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communication. Most recently the Port Hope Branch of the ACO bestowed on her the *Marion Garland Heritage Award*, which honors preservation and restoration achievements in Port Hope.

Mell has made a tremendous impact on the heritage fabric of Port Hope and was a true credit to her friend and mentor, the late A.K. Sculthorpe.

Mell was far more than that to us, she was an inspiration and a friend – she will be dearly missed by all of us who had the privilege to call her our friend.