

King's Colourful History

Lady Flavelle - An outstanding lady



When long-time King resident Lady Muriel Flavelle died in 1983, her great-grand daughters were invited to choose a memento from her bedroom. The girls took their time, carefully cradling in their hands each piece of Granny Moo's magnificent collection of glass and porcelain ornaments.

The pieces lined her windowsills, dressers, desk, and bedside table and each one was either turquoise or coral in colour. Lady Flavelle loved colour and handcrafting. She founded Kingcrafts in 1950 and belonged to both the painting and weaving groups for years.

The subjects and patterns she preferred to work with highlighted, not surprisingly, turquoise and coral. She was specific about these colours: turquoise was a transparent hue – almost aquamarine – and coral was light and absolutely not salmon.

Gardening was her other great love. She created a fabulous sheltered rose walk at her home on the 7th Concession.

Sir Ellsworth, her husband, liked to photograph his Muriel in a turquoise dress tending coral rose blooms.

Although her favorite colours sound perishable, there was nothing weak about Lady Flavelle. She and her husband cross country skied two miles north from the King Sideroad, up the unplowed 7th, to see the property they bought in the winter of 1929. She had recently recovered from typhoid fever.

Remembered by her family, the members of Kingcrafts, and the Ontario Crafts Council who administer a scholarship in her name, Lady Flavelle is honoured also by the sale of geraniums in the spring. Lady Flavelle geraniums are hardy, drought-resistant, and coral — not salmon, not pink, not orange – but coral in colour.

Submitted by Ann Love

King Township Historical Society

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