

Known affectionately as Mr. History, Boyce died late Tuesday night surrounded by loved ones at the age of 89.

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The Hamilton-born Boyce taught for 32 years in secondary schools in the Quinte region, but retired in 1989 to concentrate on research and writing.

“He served his community with boundless energy, great determination and a pure and simple love of this region,” said Historical Society Vice President Gerry Fraiberg.

“No one could approach his comprehensive knowledge of local history which he brought to the people through his extensive writing, including the definitive history of Hastings County in *Historic Hastings* and his vast collections of stories about Belleville and its history through *Belleville, A Popular History* along with many others.”

Boyce’s inspirational leadership from the founding of the Hastings County Historical Society in 1957 through his energetic guidance of generations of volunteer workers brought local history alive and put it out to the citizens of our community. What began as a small collection of priceless documents in his own home, through ever-growing collections of documents, photographs, maps and much more preserved at Glanmore Museum, the Belleville Public Library and the Heritage Centre at Cannifton, culminated in the creation of the state-of-the-art Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County.

Boyce also served his community through his active role in local politics. Mr. History occupied a seat on Belleville City Council from 1991 to 1997. Other contributions to his community included radio broadcasts, *Quintisms*, hundreds of colourful articles for the *Belleville Intelligencer* and countless academic papers. He was always the go-to guy for commentary and guidance on all aspects of local history.

*Intelligencer  
Oct 6/22  
p. A1, A7*