

Community bids farewell to Harry

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Harry Mulhall's friends and family said their last good-byes to him Friday.

The people Harry knew and loved were legion, their roots and backgrounds as diverse as the community itself. Neighbors...politicians...businessmen...young people...old people.

Harry loved them all equally.

Each knew Harry in his or her own way. And at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, they said good-bye in their own way.

Not surprisingly, the church was crowded with people who came to pay their last respects.

The service was a harmonious blending of Catholicism and Presbyterianism, the two faiths Harry practised with equal reverence and fervor.

The service was officiated by Rev. Malcolm Muth of St. Andrew's and Father Allan Peterkin, resident chaplain at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto.

That Harry was able to juggle the two faiths "was not a question of division...but a question of searching," Peterkin told the service.

Harry, long-time Intelligencer reporter and city editor, died unexpectedly Wednesday. His death, at age 53, shocked the community, many of its members cherishing fond memories of the newsman's past.

He "was, and is, all those qualities which make up an Irish Roman Catholic," said Peterkin. "He was peaceful yet could become outrageously eloquent when challenged to a verbal duel."

Peterkin told people that Harry's memory "needs no testimony to the kindness of others."

And Peterkin also touched on Harry the family man, as a person who "created an atmosphere for his children that was unbelievably free and caring...every child should know a father like Harry."

Then there was Harry the artist, skilled in writing, photography and acting. Yet behind all that artistic talent, said Peterkin, was the humble soul of a proud father."

Nor was Harry's vision of life a vision "imprisoned in life's narrowness...because he saw so many points of view."

Peterkin, a long-time friend of Harry's, momentarily reminisced personally, telling Harry "How I wish we could hear you now...not while occupied with so much in the world that is tawdry...so we might listen to you on so many subjects."

Harry is survived by his wife, Mary and children Maggie, 17, Simon, 11 and Nicholas, 4. He is also survived by a sister Claire Jensen of Calgary and nephews Gary and Edward of Unionville. Harry was predeceased by his parents, Edward and Margaret Mulhall and by a sister Patricia O'Brien and brothers Christopher and Edward.

Honorary bearers were Phil Flagler, Tom Hookings, John O'Flynn, Lawrence Parkhurst, Dr. Patrick Cassidy, Russell Patterson and Hugh O'Neil. Cremation followed the service.