

Margaret Inglis named citizen of the year

by Corinne Boyle

"Walkerton is my town and I'm proud of it," says Margaret Inglis.

Well, it works the other way too. Walkerton is proud of Margaret Inglis. She was recently named Citizen of the Year for 1985.

She was honored by the Walkerton Chamber of Commerce and the community at a banquet on Tuesday, May 27. Unfortunately, she was unable to attend the banquet as she had made plans to visit her son in British Columbia and attend Expo 86 before she knew about the award.

Ronnie McAskill, chairperson of the Citizen of the Year Award for the Chamber of Commerce, presented Margaret with the award at a chamber meeting before she left on her trip.

Margaret's extensive volunteer work in the community made her a prime candidate for this annual award.

"When I retired, I couldn't see myself sitting at home in a rocking chair. I felt I just couldn't sit around and be inactive," she says.

She is anything but inactive. Her involvement in the community goes beyond most and shows her commitment to the town of Walkerton and its people.

She has lived in Walkerton all but 12 years of her life. She moved to town when she was

10 years old in 1923. She married William Inglis in 1943 and they went to Toronto for two years, then came back to Walkerton. Her husband died in November, 1985.

She attended public and high school here and graduated as a teacher from Stratford Normal School. She did some supply teaching in Walkerton and area schools.

She worked for 29 years as a night operator at the Bell Telephone Company and retired in 1977 at age 65.

Margaret has four children: Ken of London, who is on a work placement in British Columbia; Glenn, a teacher in Bancroft; Barbara, Mrs. James Seigmiller, of Peterborough; and John of Walkerton, who is a truck driver. She has four grandchildren.

Since her retirement, she has kept a busy schedule, serving in various capacities in a number of organizations in the town.

"I have a calendar and I have to write them all down, but I manage to fit them all in sometime. Some days I go straight from one meeting to another."

It takes Margaret some time to name all the clubs and organizations she is or has been a member of over the years. She was president of the Senior Citizens Club for seven years, president of the Walkerton

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CITIZEN OF THE YEAR--Margaret Inglis, right, was recently named Citizen of the Year for 1985. The Chamber of Commerce held a banquet in her honor on Tuesday, May 27. Ronnie McAskill, chairperson of the Citizen of the Year committee, left, presented the award to Inglis at a chamber meeting before she left on her trip. (Boyle photo) 1985

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Evening Institute, she has taken a turn as treasurer of the Brucelea Haven Auxiliary and is now the convenor of 90 and 100th birthday parties for residents.

She is a member of the Walkerton Auxiliary of the County of Bruce General Hospital and served as treasurer for five years. At present she is the educational secretary for the IODE, in charge of giving awards to pupils at graduation time. She belongs to the Agricultural Society, Women's Missionary Society and is a member of Knox Presbyterian Church.

Margaret has canvassed for the March of Dimes, the Heart and Stroke Fund and the Save The Children Fund. She has worked as a volunteer at the Rotary Music Festival,

She has been a member of LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) and of the Chickenfest committee.

What does she do in her spare time? She enjoys lawn bowling during the summer and during the winter, she likes to bowl. She says her average isn't the greatest, but "it's good exercise." She is also president of the Twilight Senior Citizens Bowling Club.

It is obvious that Margaret's social life is a busy one and her involvement in so many organizations is because of one thing. "I like people. That's why I took them on."

She says Walkerton has changed a lot over the years, but still refers to it as "my town."

She recalls the time when she worked at the Bluebird Grocery on Station Road

the street and knew everybody in town. That's one thing I always enjoyed--meeting people."

She doesn't recognize as many of the faces that she sees around town now, but is still meeting new people all the time.

In presenting the award, Ronnie McAskill described Margaret as "energetic and outgoing. Nothing daunts her. Her zest for life has contributed to this town's progress. She is a warm, caring person, a giver, and Walkerton has been the lucky recipient of her caring nature. She shines as an example to all who would make their community a better place to live, work and play in."

Margaret's son, John, accepted the award on his mother's behalf. A letter of acceptance which Margaret wrote while on her holiday was read at the chamber meeting.