

Volunteers Build Communities

Brooksdale WI member earns 40-year volunteer pin at London ceremony

By Laura Green
For the Ingersoll Times

Volunteers who were honoured at the 2008 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards held in London on April 11 gave a total of 2,960 years of service to a wide variety of organizations in the little communities of Brooksdale, Browns and Drumbo to the larger centre of London.

Guest speaker for the evening was Kim Parker; account executive with Astral Media Radio G.P. Volunteering was her theme and she recalled her first experience of service was with her Brownie Pack from Ingersoll. The Brownies went to a nursing home where the girls performed a program and talked with the residents. Her parents Tom and Ruth Parker of Salford were her first teachers of the importance of volunteering. Her parents taught her that "life requires service to others" and she is teaching this same

principle to her children.

Brooksdale Women's Institute nominated one of their members Loretta Murray to receive her 40-year pin for volunteer service. Murray has worked on many committees – program planning, fund raising, catering and refreshments. She firmly believes in the Women's Institute mission "to better the lives of women and families through personal growth and community action."

Browns Women's Institute nominated the following members Margaret Arthur – 40 yrs, Betty Barons – 40 yrs, Kay Conn - 40 yrs, Ruth Gill – 50 yrs, Susan Towle – 60 yrs and Joyce West 30 years. These ladies also firmly believe in the mission and vision of "working together shaping tomorrow's world."

At the ceremony held April 7, in Stratford the Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society nominated Jim and Katherine Grieve and Grant and Anne Innes for their many years of volunteer service with the fair board.

Loretta Murray, a member of the Brooksdale Women's Institute, gave over 40 years of volunteer service to the work of the Women's Institute. She received her pin at the 2008 Ontario Volunteer Awards ceremony held in London April 11. Congratulating Loretta, guest speaker Londoner Kim Parker; account executive with Astral Media Radio G.P. Kim has her roots in Salford/Ingersoll and started her volunteering as a young Brownie with the Ingersoll Brownies pack. (Laura Green photo)

