

Prom Queen to hockey fan, Karen's our Citizen of Year

By PAUL SARGENT
Herald Special
Avid hockey booster, billing chairman for the annual Brampton hockey tournament, special education teacher, Kinnel and retarded children's auxiliary member, Karen Harrison is Georgetown's newest citizen of the year.



The Princess Anne Drive resident was chosen from among many nominees by a selection committee of the Lions Club headed by Dave Harrager.

Mrs. Harrison is the wife of Fred and mother of two boys, Blake and Craig. She has lived in Georgetown all her life and told The Herald this week she wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

The Lions' 1980 Citizen of the Year was notified by Mr. Harrager two weeks ago of the good news. "She was flattered in a humbled sort of way," Mr. Harrager said.

"I was just for words, which is unusual," Mrs. Harrison recalled. "I hadn't paid much attention to the ads asking for nominations, so it came as a big shock."

Mrs. Harrison attended school in her younger years in Georgetown studying at Chapel Street and Wrigglesworth public schools and Georgetown High Schools, grades 10 to 13. She travelled to Guelph's Notre Dame for grade 9. After graduating from high school, she attended Lakeshore Teacher's College and received her teaching certificate.

Mrs. Harrison returned to Georgetown, where she landed a teaching job, suitably enough, at the former school, remaining there for three years before moving on

to her old alma mater. She taught at Wrigglesworth, Chapel Street, Park and finally George Kennedy, where she was introduced teaching in special education classes.

"It was great to be back teaching where I used to go to school," she said.

BALDWIN CLASS
Mrs. Harrison now teaches a special education class at Milton's Robert Baldwin school. She has been actively teaching for 17 years.

"It's all I've ever wanted to do," she explained. "I used to

Currently, Mrs. Harrison is involved with the minor hockey support group, of which she is president. She has been involved with the Kinettes and numerous auxiliary services.

"I like to keep busy and I love meeting people," she explained. "I like to get involved with the kids and the senior citizens, especially."

Mrs. Harrison likes to think of herself as easy to get along with, although she admits she has her "off" days.

"The key to life is, to have a friend, you have to be a friend," she commented.

Being president of the local hockey support group takes up a lot of her time, but it also allows her to meet "fantastic people". She is responsible for the operating of ten travelling hockey teams, and ensures that the scheduling and the running of games is smooth.

Mrs. Harrison usually reserves Friday nights for relaxation, preferring to curl up and watch a good movie on television.

Sometimes she feels she should be doing something else instead of the volunteer jobs.

"The laundry starts to pile up or the kitchen floor remains

dirty for another week, that's when I feel I should be home," she laughed.

Being a born and raised "Georgetownian", Mrs. Harrison has strong feelings about the town, but said she preferred it when it was smaller. She can see the town dividing into old and new, something you wouldn't notice when there were only 3,000 residents. She feels that Georgetown lacks the old friendliness, but still thinks it's the greatest place to be.

"You only get out what you put in," explained Georgetown's newest citizen of the year.

Mrs. Harrison is following in the footsteps of some of the town's best residents. Previous winners include Irwin and Joyce Noble, Rev. Peter Barrow, Walter Gray, Peggy Treahy and the community's fire department.

Members of the Lions' selection committee include Elmer Lloyd, Ray Harlow, Dan Boyle, Carl Hansen, Gary Peer and Mr. Barrager.

Mrs. Harrison will be officially honored at a Citizen of the Year dinner February 15.

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