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THE INDEPENDENT

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For Georgetown **Ernie Bodnar named Citizen of the Year**

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

Longtime community volunteer Ernie Bodnar who, for the past several years, has worked tirelessly towards the completion of the seniors' housing life lease condominium The Gallery at Bennett Village, is Georgetown Lions Club's Citizen of the Year for 2009.

Bodnar is the 38th recipient of the award that is presented annually to a local citizen who, through his or her volunteer efforts, has made Georgetown a great place to live.

"I'm quite pleased," said Bodnar, 77. "To be singled out, it's quite an honour."

Over his many years in Georgetown Bodnar has worked on several community projects, and served several years as a school board trustee.

"I've been involved in a few things, but there are many more people more involved than I am. You do what you can, but you can always do more," said Bodnar.

Bodnar and his wife Dorothy moved to Georgetown in 1957 and raised their four children— Gregory, Grant, Glen and Laura here. Bodnar, a civil engineer, worked for the City of Mississauga, eventually becoming the city's Commissioner of Public Works and Engineering where he oversaw some of the largest infrastructure projects in

southern Ontario.

After 20 years with the City of Mississauga he worked for real estate development companies and in the late 1980s teamed with a partner to form a land development and consultancy firm and worked in the development industry.

Despite his busy professional life Bodnar became an active volunteer.

He was appointed as a school board trustee for Georgetown District High School for three years, then with the formation of Halton Board of Education he was elected and served as a Georgetown trustee for seven years including one term as chairman.

In the late 1950s he joined the Georgetown Lions Club and worked on many events such as the Georgetown Rodeo, concerts and Santa Claus Parade. He moved through the executive of the club and served as the club's president in 1963-1964.

"We are especially pleased that a former Lion member and past president of our club has been selected as Georgetown's Citizen of the Year," said Lion's Club member Doug Penrice who chairs the Citizen of the Year committee. "Ernie was an active and dedicated Lion who took the Lions motto of "We Serve" and applied this to other areas of the community."

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Ernie Bodnar, one of the principal movers and shakers behind The Gallery at Bennett Village— a seniors' life lease condo— was named the Georgetown Lion Club's 2009 Citizen of the Year Monday.
 Photo by Ted Brown

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