



Mayor Rick Bonnette (left) and Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott presents a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal to longtime Georgetown resident Fred Helson.

Photo by Cynthia Gamble

# Helson and Hurst honoured with Queen's Jubilee medals

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott announced two more local recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal at the Halton Hills council meeting recently.

The two— Fred Helson and Councillor Jon Hurst— were nominated by Halton Hills council. Both were surprised by the presentation.

The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal was created to give Canadians a way to honour the achievements of 60,000 Canadians, while honouring the Queen's 60 years of service to Canada.

Arnott said the Governor-General of Canada, David Johnston, allocated medals to each Ontario MPP to present to worthy recipients.

Criteria for selection included: helping build the Canada of today, distinguishing themselves from others in their field by their achievements, and being highly respected in their community.

"I chose to ask Wellington and Halton Hills municipal councillors to submit nominations for this prestigious recognition and tonight we are honouring two of Halton Hills' leading citizens," said Arnott.

Ninety-one-year-old Helson has a long history of community involvement, including sitting on the Georgetown Hospital, North Halton Golf Club, and Friends of Devereaux House boards, and is a long-time patron of the arts including Globe, GLT, Choral Society, and Bach Chorale, said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

"His generosity is legendary," he said, pointing out Helson's recent \$1 million donation to the Georgetown Hospital

Foundation expansion/renovation campaign.

"He has volunteered his time, his expertise and financially to this great community," said the mayor.

Helson, who was lured to the council meeting on the pretext that the mayor was receiving an award, said he was overwhelmed.

He said his move to Georgetown in 1948 has "done wonders for me ... I enjoyed being here every minute ... It's been a great pleasure being a Georgetowner, and I hope to be one for a long, long time."

Bonnette described Hurst, a former Acton Citizen of the Year, as a tireless worker for the people of Acton, listing off his volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity, the youth centres, Terry Fox Run, and Paul Murr Golf Tourney.

"He assists many people in our community that we will not even know about because he does it without looking for recognition...I can't think of a better humanitarian than St. Jon Hurst," said Bonnette.

Hurst said he was humbled by the presentation and accepted it on behalf of all volunteers in the community. He credited his late wife Maxine for introducing him to the joy of volunteering.

"Over the years, I have just carried on the tradition that she had taught me," said Hurst. "I certainly appreciated this, knowing that she is a part of it as well."

In April, 2008 Georgetown Citizen of the Year Dr. Jeff Sutherland received a Jubilee Medal for his work with the ALS Society.



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Photo by Cynthia Gamble

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- Andrew's Scenic Acres
- Arbor Garden Centre and Nursery
- Arnolds Greenhouse
- Bay Books & Collectibles
- Bergsma's Paint and Wallpaper
- Biosyent
- Black Creek Pioneer Village
- Cornerstone Health Centre, Nicole Meier ND
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- Edible Arrangements
- Emerald Isle
- Evergreen Acres Nurseries
- Finishing Touch
- Floragardens Greenhouses
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- Food Basics
- Foodstuffs
- Dr. Ben Giddens, Optometrist
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- Greenworks for the Birds
- Gro-Bark (Ont) Ltd
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