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NEWS



Alexandra Heck/Metroland

Shawn Wood is the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Employee of the year.

MEET SHAWN WOOD: HALTON HILLS' EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

ALEXANDRA HECK
aheck@metroland.com

Shawn Wood has a certain spot where he stands near the bench at Georgetown Raiders home games.

For years, "Woodsy" as he's affectionately called, has been assisting the team with water, equipment and making sure to "fire the boys up sometimes."

Last year, standing in that spot, watching the puck slide into the net in the winning game for the Buckland Cup was his proudest moment on the bench.

"Watching us get the win in our building, in front of our fans, it was amazing," he said.

Wood is one of the longest serving members of the Raiders and this year, has been chosen by the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce as Employee of the Year.

Woods has been working for the Real Canadian Superstore in Georgetown for over 21 years, working in the front end of the store and parking lot.

"It's almost like working with hockey, it's all team-

work," said Wood. "I figure if you do something nice for somebody, they do something nice back for you."

As a long-standing fixture of Georgetown's hockey scene and community, Wood says he's honoured to be given the award.

"I played hockey when I was a little guy," said Wood, who grew up in Georgetown, attending Harrison Public School, Centennial Middle School and W.C. Drury in Milton. "Working with the guys gets me still involved with hockey."

He says that hockey is a special sport in Georgetown.

"We're the home of the little NHL," he said. "Little kids see you wearing Georgetown Raiders stuff and they say hi to you."

According to Raider's head athletic trainer, Andrew Groombridge - it's not just kids on the street saying hi.

"He greets everybody," said Groombridge, adding that even at the Superstore residents know Wood because he always makes sure to say hello.

"Every team has got to have a Shawn Wood," said

the trainer, who remembers Wood being with the team even 19 years ago when he came to Georgetown.

Wood has a contagious energy cheering during games, and an encyclopedic memory of sports knowledge.

Wood can remember players from the team over a decade ago, which number they wore and more.

"He even remembers where they sat in the dressing room," said Groombridge.

The chamber of commerce is awarding Wood at a gala celebration on Wednesday Oct. 17.

"I've worked so much all of my life," said Wood, who was a special needs student in school. "I tell the kids they can do what they want to do in life, just follow your dreams, keep going."

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