GEORGETOWN LIONS CITIZEN OF YEAR HAYNES-RIDLEY IS A SHINING EXAMPLE ON LOCAL DIAMONDS

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Dee Dee Haynes-Ridley sat back and patiently listened to the questions being asked to prospective Halton Hills Minor Baseball coach-

They focused on strategy, style of managing, how the coach would handle certain situations within a game.

When Haynes-Ridley's turn came up, pretty much every baseball question imaginable had already been asked. But she still needed an answer to her question.

"Baseball used to be a

community and it has gotten away from that," she said. "What are you going to

do to bring that back?" For Haynes-Ridley, what the players do off the field is every bit as important as what they do on it. What she was looking for was how was the coach going to make the team a part of community.

In the past, minor-baseball players delivered doorhangers for the Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills, they volunteered for the Coldest Night of the Year initiative. Haynes-Ridley learned growing up that other people were providing her and her friends the opportunity to play sports and so players should give something back.

"I've just always believed you should help other people," she says. "That's how I was raised."

Haynes-Ridley has continued to follow that lesson for more than three decades as a coach and executive member with the Georgetown, then Halton Hills Minor Baseball Association, Georgetown Ladies Powderpuff League (GLPL) and youth bowling leagues.

It's her commitment to the community that earned her the Lions Club of Georgetown Citizen of the Year Award.

Haynes-Ridley was still a teenager when she started giving back to the organizations that provided her with countless hours of enjoyment and friends she still has to this day. She started by writing Kinsmen Girls Softball game summaries for the newspaper and made her first foray into coaching at Georgetown Bowl.

After graduating from Mohawk College, where she studied early childhood edu-

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