



Sanford family photo

Bill and Kathy Sanford will be recognized as Acton's Citizens of the Year at a dinner on Oct. 1.

SANFORDS NAMED ACTON'S 2019 CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

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If you've seen Acton native Kathy Sanford volunteering around town, chances are husband Bill wasn't far behind.

"When you get one of us, you get both of us," she tells the Independent. "I've said quite a few times that we're not joined at the hip physically, but we are philosophically."

So it's only fitting that the couple has been jointly named Acton's Citizens of the Year by the Rotary Club, recognizing their decades-long commitment to giving back to the community.

Kathy said they were "stunned" to find out they'd been selected for the honour and talked about it for a while before humbly deciding to accept the title.

"We do these things (volunteer) because they're the thing to do, not for the recognition," she said.

With a lengthy list of volunteer contributions, local residents may know the longtime local couple for a variety of reasons.

The pair was among the founding members of the Heritage Acton Board in 1977, helping save the Acton

Town Hall and raise funds to restore it to the majestic structure it is today.

"At that time, Halton Hills Council wanted to tear it down, but we (the local residents group) said no," said Kathy. "It's an absolutely beautiful building."

She recalled running the 'Actario' (like Lottario) lottery in the downtown core on Saturday morning in the '80s, with all money raised going to the Town Hall restoration.

The Sanfords have also been very active on the local theatre scene, working with the Georgetown Little Theatre and the Acton Town Hall Players, the latter of which Kathy said started as the Acton Old Town Hall Dinner Theatre — another initiative that brought in funds to restore the classic building.

Bill has been a Rotarian since 2002 and served as president when the club built the bandshell in Acton's Prospect Park. In traditional Sanford fashion, Kathy volunteered alongside her husband at Rotary Club events, such as at the annual dinner held at the Acton Legion for seniors.

In the local faith community, Kathy and Bill gave

of their time in a variety of positions at St. Joseph's and Limehouse Presbyterian churches.

They also helped launch the Acton historic calendars initiative, served on the Acton Christmas Hamper Committee and routinely volunteered their time during McHappy Day, Classics Against Cancer and the Mayor's Heritage Golf Tournament.

So what is it about volunteering that the busy couple loves?

"Knowing that we're giving back to the community and helping people less fortunate than we are," said Kathy. "We also like helping out the community and providing entertainment, facilities and services for people."

While the pair recently moved away from the area to Tillsonburg, Kathy said Acton and its friendly, small-town feel will always be special to her and Bill.

The Sanfords will be honoured at a dinner at the Acton Town Hall Centre on Oct. 1. Cocktails start at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets cost \$40 and are available at Acton Optical and rotaryclubofacton.com.

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Q

I am married but separated. The house we live in is in my name alone. Does my spouse have a right to be here, or can I tell my spouse to leave?

A

If you are married and live in Ontario, the residence in which you ordinarily live at the time of separation in Ontario is considered the "matrimonial home". Married spouses each have the right to "possess", i.e. occupy, the matrimonial home after separation. This is true even if the home is not in a spouse's name, but only in the other spouse's name. The home can be one which one or both spouses own, or even a rental property one or both of you lease as married spouses but do not own. This is a right that married spouses have over people who are not married and who live in a "common law" relationship. The only way that you can legally have a spouse removed from the home is either by express written agreement, or a court order. If it is not tolerable to live together in the home after separation, especially if you have children together and they are being negatively impacted by marital conflict, it is best for one of the spouses/parents to leave the home, hopefully on consent for the sake of the children, or by court order if he or she does not agree to leave. Lockyer + Hein LLP is a full service law firm that does a lot of family law. We are happy to meet you for a free consultation at one of our three offices, including 8 Guelph Street, Georgetown, in the Lounsbury Life & Group Insurance Benefits building. Have a great weekend.



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