

'SHE IS THE FIRST TO VOLUNTEER'

ACTIVE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER NAMED 2019/2020 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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Marilyn Serjeantson is a woman of many firsts; the first female on Halton Hills Council, followed by being the first woman to run the municipality as mayor.

Now, she can add another title to the list as the first resident to be named the Georgetown Lions Citizen of the Year for two years running — an honour that was bestowed on her as the club wasn't able to present her award in person last year due to pandemic restrictions.

The modest woman and energetic community volunteer said she felt "a bit embarrassed" upon hearing her latest recognition.

"Over this past year, so many other people have done things that are definitely above and beyond," she said. "But I do feel really honoured. My (late) husband would've thought this was great."

Having lived in Georgetown for over half a century, Serjeantson is a familiar face to many, whether it be from her time on council to her variety of volunteer activities around the community. The mother of four became an active volunteer in her children's younger years at George Kennedy Public School — a move that seemed only fitting as her grandmother was related to the school's namesake and Georgetown's founder.

Serjeantson entered the political ring in the late 1970s, joining the "boys club" as the first woman on Halton Hills Council, later becoming a regional councillor and then the first female mayor of the town in 1994.



Graham Paine/Metroland

Marilyn Serjeantson is once again the Georgetown Lions Citizen of the Year.

While many projects were completed during her tenure, she said the one she's most pleased about came during her earliest years on council when she helped establish the Acti-Van service, providing crucial public transportation for seniors that still exists today.

"Since we don't have a bus service, it (the Acti-Van) has expanded and filled a need. It's made this community a better place," she said. "I always feel proud when I see it."

Following more than two decades on council, Serjeantson left and redirected her energy to a plethora of community organizations and projects — almost too many to mention.

She was instrumental in establishing the early childhood centre at the Gary Allan High School and was a board member of the Devereaux House rehabilitation project that saved the historical building from certain demolition.

She was also a member of the 2007 Georgetown Homecoming Committee, which was so successful that it was recognized as Lions Citizen of the Year in

2007.

In addition, Serjeantson is a long-time member of the Kiwanis Club of Georgetown, having served as president and secretary. Through the club, she has played a key role on the Head for the Hills Craft Beer Festival.

"I have known Marilyn for almost 45 years on a personal and professional level, and her tireless energy never ceases to amaze me," wrote Kiwanis Club member Melanie McCracken in her Citizen of the Year nomination letter. "As a fellow Kiwanian, I can speak from experience that she is the first to volunteer to tackle any task and I know that a lot of our events could not function without her excessive contributions."

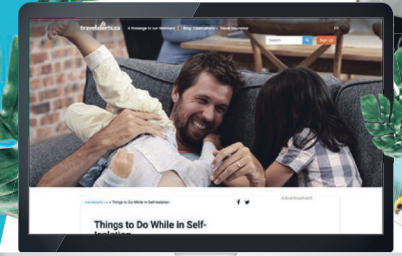
And one can't forget her many contributions to Light up the Hills, the extensive Christmas lights display that shines throughout Halton Hills' parks every holiday season.

The Lions Club plans to honour Serjeantson in May, with the award presentation subject to pandemic restrictions. Further details to be announced.

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As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, we will be making some changes to our website and newsletter. In regards to Canada's federal government advising against all unnecessary travel, we will not be promoting any flights, travel deals and travel packages until further notice.

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