



GET FIT HALTON HILLS: Sonya Serrick and John Picket test out the new exercise equipment at the Halton Hills Civic Centre on June 12, supplied by Green Gym in support of the official launching of the Getfit website. - Tracey Gardner photo

Eileen Dix, perpetual...

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group and started the Block Parent Program in Malton.

In 1978, they decided to try country living and moved to 25 Side Road and Fifth Line Nassagaweya. The country home was nice, (back to raising chickens and collecting eggs) but she missed being involved with people, especially volunteering. A friend told her the Y.M.C.A. in Acton was looking for someone to revitalize the programs and manage the building. Once again Eileen jumped in a really enjoyed implementing new programs there and making many new friends.

Three years later A.S.S.I.C (which had previously been located in the Y.M.C.A building) needed someone to step in because a staff person was on vacation and the other staff member had been involved in an accident. Eileen took over until the staff person returned from her vacation. The second person decided not to return and they offered Eileen her job.

Eileen worked three days a week at A.S.S.I.C. and two days a week at the Y. Eileen really enjoyed working at A.S.S.I.C. as the community support worker. She remained there until 1991.

During this period they moved to Acton, buying a home on Rosemary Road.

Through her work with A.S.S.I.C. she realized the need for affordable/subsidized housing and volunteered on the board of directors for the Morley Mills Co-op and the Carruthers RD. Co-op in Georgetown.

Once these were completed, she decided Acton needed a co-op housing complex, so she formed a board of directors and worked to produce the Cobblehill Co-op on Cook Street, which took many of her working hours plus many volunteer hours to see her dream accomplished.



ALMOST TWINS: A young Eileen poses in the same dress as her sister back in Newport, South Wales, well before moving to Canada. - Submitted photo

During this time, her 26 year marriage ended, and after a few rough years in 1991, Eileen decided to resign from A.S.S.I.C. and return to Wales for six months to be with her family and friends.

When she returned, she became involved with the Acton Food Share, being Treasurer for 16 years until her recent retirement. Eileen followed her dedication to A.S.S.I.C. (which had now changed its name to H.H.C.S.I.) by joining

the board of directors, where she served for many years. In 1995, she became involved with the Acton Seniors Centre at their original location in the old Acton arena. She became Secretary of the Seniors Centre in 2003 and recently decided to take a well earned break.

Over the years she had collected for the Heart and Stroke and the United Way.

She worked for a chiropractor for a while and during this time she became a grandma when Rebecca was born. Her daughter Julie and son-in-law were living in Cambridge, but returned to Acton to live and built Eileen her own apartment in their home so she was able to help raise her baby granddaughter.

She became grandmother for a second time when Andrew arrived, so she retired so she could help take care of the two grandchildren. She spent the next 10 years helping raise them, which she really enjoyed.

Eileen has travelled back and forth to Wales too many times to count she said. She also enjoys travelling to Bragg Creek in Alberta to visit her younger daughter and son-in-law and their beautiful Huskies once or twice a year.

Eileen feels she has recently started the "final chapter" of her life - her senior years. She has moved to Elizabeth Drive Seniors apartment building, and is very impressed with the facility. She is looking forward to a little break from volunteering, after which she hopes to get back into organizing a group to pursue the possibility of another facility like the Elizabeth Drive apartments. She knows full well the dire need for seniors housing in Acton.

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