

Opinion

What would this town be like without its volunteers?

They work tirelessly for free and their efforts are so valuable they're priceless.

They're volunteers. They're our friends, neighbours and family members, who never seem to be short on time, energy or goodwill to go the extra mile for someone else.

And they deserve our thanks.

With National Volunteer Week (April 6 to 12) upon us, now is the time to think about how to say thank you. What would Milton be like without its volunteers?

What would sports groups do without coaches, schools without parent volunteers, service clubs without members or the Canadian Cancer Society without volunteer drivers?

Where would our hospital be without its loyal auxiliary?

Or how lonely would some of our seniors feel without friendly visitors?

Would the popular local family activities, such as the annual Canada Day festivities, Milton Fall Fair, Steam-Era and Milton Santa Claus Parade, be as successful if there were no volunteers to support them?

Could the United Way of Milton and Salvation Army of Milton assist those in need if volunteers weren't ready to lend a hand?

Even abandoned animals receive kindness from strangers who freely give of their time or make donations to the Oakville and Milton Humane Society.

Good Neighbours Community Day and the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee engage volunteers of all kinds for their annual spring clean-ups, which help to beautify our town.

There are so many people who help it's impossible to name them all in this space.

While there are formal awards that attempt to highlight the work of volunteers, we should all take the cue and simply thank someone we know who willingly gives their time for the betterment of others.



Heritage Matters

This stone house, located at 345 Steeles Ave., was built by Wm. Elliot in 1854. It was part of a 200-acre farm that remained in the Elliot family until 1912 when it was sold to S. Harrop. The Harrop family ran a dairy farm from the property and sold fresh milk in Milton. The high quality stonework and interior are noted as fine examples of the Regency Style. The large bank barn that once served the farm was moved to Country Heritage Park in 1974 but the 1850 small barn remains on the property.

Submitted by Heritage Milton and Milton Historical Society

Editor's Desk

Awards gala news only Tweet away

One of the biggest nights in Milton, if not the biggest, is only a day away.

Tomorrow (Friday) evening the 2013 Chamber of Commerce Community Awards, which recognize excellence in business and community service, will be held at Granite Ridge Golf Club.

We already know who some of the recipients are. Audrey Newell is this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, while Mario Belvedere has been named Citizen of Year and Angelo Posteraro is the Joyce Hagevik Volunteer of the Year. The Civic Improvement Award recipient is Melissa Coulson for renovations at 35 Hugh St.



Karen Miceli
Managing Editor

As for the business awards, for the most part we won't know who the recipients are until tomorrow night. John Cavan (Mortgage Architects), Rosanna Conteduca (Allegria Organic Spa and Boutique) and Kate Holmes-Williamson (United Way of Milton) are the nominees for Business Person of the Year, while Entrepreneur of the Year nominees are Sam Kassam-Macfie (Momstown Milton), William Mann (Sensei MAT) and Shawn and Bridget Saulnier (Mohawk Inn and Conference Centre).

Gordon Food Service is the lone nominee for Business of the Year with 100 employees or more, while up for the Business of the Year with 99 employees or less are Allegria Organic Spa and Boutique, Reebok CrossFit FirePower and Shoeless Joe's.

If you don't have a ticket for the black tie gala, not to worry. I will be Tweeting frequently from the event.

You can still be among the first to know the events of the evening as they happen by following me on Twitter @ChampionEditor.

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