

# There is no such word as no in Anne's vocabulary

It takes many elements to create a community and in Milton those responsible for contributing to its betterment are recognized each year.

Milton Chamber of Commerce Community Awards recipients represent outstanding community supporters in the form of businesses, organizations and individuals. This year's winners were announced last week and are profiled in the following feature.

Residents will have a chance to honour the recipients at a Community Awards dinner, Friday, Feb. 15 at the Muddy Duck banquet hall. Cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner and awards presentations to follow.

If Anne Ptolemy had learned to say no she would not have been selected as citizen of the year by Milton Chamber of Commerce.

She has said yes to a number of organizations and causes during her 25 years as a Milton resident.

"There always seems to be a challenge," said the mother of four.

There was the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary when she first came to town after marrying Doug Ptolemy in 1959. There was the fledgling curling club, the crumbling tennis courts, the demise of Bruce Street School, the creek channelization and the Canadian Cancer Society.

The list goes on and continues to grow as Anne admits she is a slow learner and still can't say no. Proving that it is never too late to learn something about oneself, the Community Award recipient discovered a new emotion when she learned the honour had been given to her.

"The feeling is deep and emotional. It wells up inside of you and stays with you," she explained.

Although she admits 1984 was "a big year" she had no idea her efforts in that busy time or previous to it would be recognized by the Chamber.

It was about this time last year Anne found herself saying yes to Roy Downs who asked her to join the Ways and Means committee for the hospital expansion fund. Before long, Anne suggested a person-to-person campaign to reach residents and help raise the \$1 million.

Later she would enlist the support of wildlife artist Robert Bateman, a personal friend. The painting he donated as a draw prize boosted the fund by \$42,000.

"The success of the hospital campaign was due to a whole pile of people," Anne said.

Anne had her hand in the original expansion which added a second floor to the facility. A physiotherapist by profession, she had heard the physio room would not be included in the expansion and had been relegated to the basement.

"There's nothing gloomier than than holding a little ball doing finger movements and looking at basement walls," she suggested.

In order to get her idea across to the hospital board she became first vice-president of the auxiliary. This position within the auxiliary guaranteed a seat on the board and that gem was dangled in front of her when she almost said no to the post as she was expecting her third child.

Her two cents worth offered at an expansion planning session brought the physiotherapy room out of the gloom and into a small but bright place near the laboratory.

Results have not always been associated with her endeavors but she has always found her challenges stimulating. As a member of the home and school group at Bruce Street School she was involved in an attempt to save the 113-year-old building.

Before the wrecking crew was called, the group wanted to investigate the possibility of saving the school. A report on the building

## Voices unite at Knox

The voices of Knox Presbyterian Church choir will combine with those from the Christian Reformed Church of Clarkson in a concert Sunday.

With the Clarkson group called Euphonia comes director John DeCloe, a native of Holland and organist Dennis Van Ravens. The combined choir concert will begin at 7 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 27 at Knox Presbyterian.

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An unexpected honour came Anne Ptolemy's way last week when she discovered Milton Chamber of Commerce had selected her as Citizen of the Year.

which detailed its tree bark insulation and rubble-filled bricks quickly convinced those who wanted it saved to allow it to succumb to the wrecking ball and bulldozers.

As much as Anne loves to see what she undertakes work, she has no regrets about those which haven't.

There is a section of Sixteen Mile Creek in town which does not have cement walls. In fact this portion is much like the creek has always been, thanks to the efforts of citizens like Anne. They may have asked to have the entire waterway saved from channelization but in the end achieved a satisfactory compromise.

The cement banks were necessary to comply with the 100 year storm plan developed by Halton Region Conservation Authority. After some discussion and much planning on the part of residents, it was agreed the part of the creek backing several homes on Halton Ave. would be left in its natural state.

The Ptolemy's back yard is still a haven for the creatures associated with the creek. Despite only partial success, the process "made people think," recalls Anne.

Anne's first love is tennis. She's been playing and teaching tennis since she was 13-years-old and living in Hamilton. When she moved to Milton as a newlywed she found the facilities here in need of some attention.

The chicken wire fences were acceptable and even the lawn bowling lights served a

purpose for some years. The surface required work and the pieces of trees which held the nets had to go.

The Town and several industries here supported Anne's attempts to give the courts (located where the Credit Union stands today) a face-lift. The weeds were scraped away, powdered brick created a new surface along with a donated tractor.

New lights were purchased which were later moved to the courts at Rotary Park. Anne took a break from tennis for several years but found herself at the end of a racket again teaching students from Martin St. and Holy Rosary school the sport as an elective. As an instructor she had never been paid.

"It's just something I do," she explained. A former Canadian Inter-collegiate singles champion, Anne still plays competitively, sometimes on the international circuit. She is active as a member of a team at Burlington Raquet Club.

Each summer she and her family head to the cottage at Haliburton where she is able to share her love of tennis with others as a level one instructor. She teaches all age groups including seniors.

"Nothing daunts me," said the citizen of the year.

This admission could have applied when she and several other women got involved with Milton Curling Club. There were only six experienced female curlers in town when the club was being established. Anne was not one of them but like others at that time became a curler.

Her husband and children also took up the sport which Anne abandoned two years ago in favour of tennis - a sport which doesn't cause cold hands and feet.

During the family's summer retreats to the north, Anne takes a week to indulge in an art course.

For the past three years Anne has been fully retired from her profession. She went back into physiotherapy six years ago on a part-time basis. Anne is someone who obviously enjoyed her work and said she would recommend the profession to those who like working with people.

In addition to visiting her clients in their homes and at the hospital, Anne worked with people as a Cancer Society volunteer. It was the death of her mother-in-law, a victim of the disease, which drove Anne to want to educate people about cancer.

For more than 10 years she helped spread the word about prevention through self-detection. She also helped make dressings in a room at town hall heated by a potbelly stove, taking her mother-in-law's place.

Anne was a member of the original choral group in town, the Chansonettes. She remained with the group, now known as the Milton Choristers, for 15 years.

As a volunteer, Anne served on several boards of directors including Halton Children's Aid Society, Victoria Order of Nurses, Milton United Way and most recently, Halton Helping Hands. She is an

honorary life member of the Milton District Hospital Board.

"In everything I've done I have met such super people," Anne said. She and Doug have four children, Suzanne, Ian, Diana and Michael.

## Community Award Citizen

Anne Ptolemy

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