

Comments from Linda Bishop, Chair, Harold Lodwick Citizenship Award 2023

My name is Linda Bishop, Harold is my uncle. I'm here to honour Harold and his many efforts of volunteer work he did for Beaverton to enjoy.

On behalf of my Aunt Gerrie, cousins Wendy, Greg, Rob, Alison, Becky, Steve, their children, and the rest of our extended family we will present this award to a deserving, hardworking volunteer. The recipient will receive a trophy, and a cheque for \$3000 to direct to a charity or organization of their choice, in town.

Some volunteer work is visible, easy to see, still more work is done behind the scenes and not easily visible to most. Harold was so involved with so many organizations and causes around town. And, while he wasn't easy to miss, he sure did a lot of behind-the-scenes work.

- The Fall Fair held a special place in his heart. He served as President, worked for a month prior to the fair on the track, grandstand, preparing booths, organizing people and events, and again after the fair cleaning up.
- He helped with the kids races for the schools on the first day of the fair.
- One year my daughter was running the cross-country race, Harold was the "rabbit" on his 4-wheeler driving ahead of the kids to show them the way. He had a good lead so stopped to talk to someone, my daughter passed him, he laughed, jumped back on the 4-wheeler, and sped on ahead to show the way. After she said she had beaten Uncle Harold and he was even on wheels.
- Harold also coached baseball, hockey, and Ringette when his kids were playing.
- He worked hard for Lake Simcoe Conservation, and Southlake Community Futures which was an organization to assist and promote new business in Beaverton. He was a curler and often volunteered to help maintain the ice surface. As well he groomed snowmobile trails.
- Beaverton Public School got a track in the yard thanks to Harold's hard work.
- He was caretaker at St Andrews United Church also, helping there with whatever needed to get done.

Many people have told me that if something needed doing, ask Harold. So many varied interests and passions that he worked on for the people of Beaverton to enjoy. As result of being so involved and knowing so many people in town, he was successful at becoming a Councillor.

Characteristics of volunteerism include being enthusiastic, committed, reliable and passionate. Volunteering reflects our values, what and who we care about, our vision for community and the lives that live within it. Our award today will be presented to a person who, like Harold, exhibits all these qualities.

They go above and beyond in their work on many different groups in town. It is easy to see what they value by the groups they are involved with. Having lived here for 45 years our recipient got busy immediately.

Some of the interests and work of this person currently and for many prior years include the following causes:

1. The Norma Green Christmas Wish Foundation, they sponsor a family in need at Christmas and raise money throughout the year to help this wonderful organization.
2. The Beaverton Fall Fair being both on the Board and helping in many areas including the registration and judging exhibits. Many late nights and busy days are spent making the fair what we enjoy.
3. Beaverton Town Hall Players. Entertainment, music, dance, and theatre are good for the soul. Our recipient has worked with this group for 35 years in the capacity of director, producer, stage manager, actor and on the Board. Impressive indeed!
4. Andy's Crock Pot, this is an initiative run out of the United Church. Prior to the pandemic our volunteer of the year organized food pickup, recipes, teams of people to cook, serve and set up every week. Many community members came together to prepare and serve a warm, sit-down meal every Friday in the Church basement. Anyone looking for company and good food were welcome. For many years over 100 people were served every Friday.
Post covid the program has been reinvented thanks to the leadership and organizational skills of this person. Now, twice a week, teams of workers cook and prepare 25-40 family sized, frozen meals for the food bank to distribute to anyone who wants them, no small feat to organize, cook and prepare food for this many people.
5. United Church Board member and United Church Women organization
6. Reading Program at Beaverton Public School helping children with reading skills
7. Scouts Canada (involved for more years than their child attended)
8. Walkathons to benefit Make a Wish program and Muscular Dystrophy
9. Participation yearly in The Harold Lodwick Fun Run... Annually in October participants dress in Halloween costumes if they wish, walk, or run together, share a BBQ and have fun while raising money for this worthwhile recognition award.

Believe it or not, apparently this person has spare time! For fun, knitting, crocheting, needle work, rug hooking and belonging to a walking group are interests they have. But.... Not without still giving back. The Beaver Rug Hookers give to the Norma Green Fund and the Food Bank yearly!
Her spouse, son, daughter, their spouses and her 5 grandchildren have learned to share this kind, hardworking lady.

I'm extremely honored to present the Harold Lodwick Citizenship award to Kathy Davidson.
Congratulations Kathy and thank you from all of Beaverton for making life a little easier for so many in our town.