



Township of McKellar

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Provincial Senior of the Year – Township of McKellar – 2023

There is a long and impressive list of volunteers over the age of 65 who, through the years, have made the Township of McKellar a much better community in which to live.

We are honored to add to the list for 2023: LAURA THOMPSON

Laura, please come up here to receive the Provincial Senior of the Year Award for the Township of McKellar.

Anyone who knows Laura would agree that in her own humble way she would probably argue that there are many volunteers who are more deserving, but everyone knows that there are very few people who could follow in her footsteps over what she would consider an average day.

Shortly after moving to McKellar with her family in the early 1990s, Laura hit the ground running.

She became a member of the McKellar United Church congregation, singing in the Choir and sitting on many different committees, often serving as the Chair.

She became the organizer of the Church's annual meal preparation for Seniors, for yearly Remembrance Day services and, especially this year, for some of McKellar Township's 150th anniversary events. Whenever there is a need, Laura is there to help with funeral lunches, bake sales or just helping people in crisis.

As a member of the Parry Sound Singers, Laura has regularly entertained enthusiastic audiences throughout the area, including at concerts held right here in the Community Centre.

Laura also oversees a complimentary dinner served at the Mary Street Centre every Thursday, and she has co-operated with Harvest Share for a number of years.

When she is not in the kitchen, during the winter months, Laura is an avid curler who not

only excels at the sport but has also coached young curling teams to provincial championships.

A retired elementary school teacher, Laura continues as a member of RTO, working for community benefits such as the recently installed outdoor pizza oven at St. James United Church in Parry Sound.

As McKellar Agricultural Society Director, among her many other duties, she has taken on the role of Food Director in the kitchen.

To know Laura is to love her and to perhaps envy her enthusiasm and stamina. Her congenial personality and her skill sets make her a welcome addition to the McKellar community. She does not contribute for the glory or for the prizes. She contributes because that is who she is. It is part of her genetic make-up.

Even though Laura is a very unassuming person, today she is to be thanked and recognized for all that she does for our extended community.

On behalf of our MPP, Graydon Smith, our Council and all the citizens of McKellar and beyond, we extend our thanks and gratitude to Laura Thompson not only on this day but throughout the years.

Please congratulate Laura when you next meet her, probably overseeing another meal preparation function in the kitchen at the Community Centre.