

# Congratulations outstanding citizens

**Meet the nominees for the annual Royal Bank Citizen of the Year Award 2007. The Dundas Valley Collision Centre Youth Volunteer of the Year Award profiles are on page 47. The recipients of the two awards will be announced at a gala banquet on April 25 at the Dundas Valley Golf and Curling Club. For tickets and more information, log onto [www.hamiltonchamber.on.ca](http://www.hamiltonchamber.on.ca)**

## Dundas Star News

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Ken Hall's commitment to a cause carries people along in his wake. If you're a busy person, he'll manage to happily get you to agree to do more. Ken leads by example, quietly carrying out his own volunteer work.

A retired educator, Ken devotes his time to a variety of causes, primarily environmental issues, McMaster University and the Rotary Club of Dundas. As both a teacher and principal in elementary and secondary schools, Ken coached many young athletes in track and field, culminating in an OFSSA championship and the founding of the Spartan Track Club.

After retiring in 1989, Ken was not content to rest on his laurels and re-focused his efforts on the community. He brought together citizens, politicians and planners to form the **Bay Area Restoration Council**, then went on to become president and volunteer executive director. With the Hamilton Naturalists Club, he took on the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan file and quickly assumed a key role.

He was a member of the Fish and Wildlife Habitation Restoration Committee that built the fishway to enable only desirable fish to enter Cootes to spawn, and he initiated a Classroom Aquatic Nursery Program that allowed children to grow plants for Cootes Paradise. Ken was also a leader in planning and building a trail from Bayfront Park to Cootes Paradise.

He served six years as a member of the Hamilton Grant Review Team of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and helped establish the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre to educate the public on the conservation and preservation of the Niagara Peninsula. As well, he has organized walkathons and helped establish the Hamilton Harbour Watershed Stewardship Project

A graduate of McMaster University, Ken has served his alma mater through the McMaster Alumni Association, the McMaster Senate and the McMaster Alumni Gallery Subcommittee.

Ken joined the Rotary Club of Dundas in 1997, and has been instrumental in the club's service to Dundas and the wider world.

Ken counts among his most treasured and inspirational volunteer moments an experience he had in Nepal at the Rotary International Polio Plus Immunization Day.

"There were four stations set up on a hill and all these women and their children walked for miles and lined up for the vaccine."

When he returned home, Ken convinced his fellow Rotarians to fund the construction of a classroom in one of the local schools.

Ken says his volunteering efforts bring him a lot of personal satisfaction.

"I like to do it, and while I'm doing things for other people and groups, I get a lot of personal satisfaction out of it," said Ken.

"When I see the pleasure people get while on the walking trails, you know you had something to do with that. In teaching, it's the people who come back to me years later to say thanks. It's those little perks that keep me going."

Ken credits his parents for instilling the volunteering spirit.

"It was drilled into me that if you're going to be part of a community, that you give back to that community. I think everyone should do it. It enriches your life."

Ken has received numerous community awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from McMaster for Innovative Leadership, Environmentalist of the Year, the Ontario Senior Achievement Award and a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Ken is married to wife Joan. The couple has two children, Cheryl and Cameron, and four grandkids, Leda, Paul, Chloe and Alexa.

"My family has been very supportive, and that's important to what you do...that your family is behind you," said Ken.

Whenever there is a need, Carl Fraser is the first to help and the last to take credit or recognition for the success.

In fact, had the Dundas Valley Rotary Club's skating rink project not needed an infusion of funds, Carl would have never agreed to the Citizen of the Year nomination.

Carl is the driving force behind the skating rink project. When completed, the Dundas Driving Park facility will be the first refrigerated outdoor rink in Hamilton, providing free, family skating from the end of November through March each year.

Carl's tireless efforts over the past four years, liaising with the City of Hamilton, contractors, planners, community leaders and supporters have ensured the project will come to fruition this December.

Over half of the money for the project has already been raised. Door-to-door canvassing will begin soon. Carl has a copy of a yellowed, old photo of a banner hanging across King Street West urging residents to contribute to a campaign to help build a new roof for the arena. The population of Dundas at the time was 7,000; \$300,000 was raised. Carl is hoping the public will once again get involved.

"The citizens of the day wanted to pass something on to the next generation, and we want to do the same thing," he said.

Carl joined the Rotary Club of Dundas in 1988 and was instrumental in forming the new morning club in 1999. He has been a tireless supporter of Rotary projects, both financially and with his time. Carl is a Paul Harris Fellow of both clubs for outstanding service.

Along with his Rotary work, Carl has helped organize the Beverly Charity Classic for the past 11 years, serving two years as chair. The golf tournament has raised a total of \$440,000 for local charities such as multiple sclerosis, McMaster Children's Hospital, cystic fibrosis, ALS and the Sanfilippo Children's Research Foundation. He has also chaired the Dennis Brown Memorial Tournament for Brain Cancer for seven years and lent his expertise to the St. Joseph's Villa Charity Golf Tournament.

"Golf is a hobby and I have friends who like to play, so I rope them into sponsoring, participating and buying auction items," said Carl. "It's fellowship and giving money back to the community at the same time."

St. Joseph's Villa benefitted from Carl's service as a volunteer member of the board of directors during the most challenging time in its history. A major capital fundraising campaign was launched several years ago to support the construction of two new wings and renovations to the existing long-term care facility. Carl joined the villa board four years ago and is responsible for launching the villa's first formal Planned Giving Committee and Bequest Society -- a program that ensures support for the organization well into the future.

Carl's wife's mother resided at the villa before her death.

"My wife, Linda, still visits those who have no one six days a week, and I admire that more than what I am doing," he said.

Carl credits two fellow Rotarians, Norm Westoby and Bob Lennie, for his volunteering commitment to the community.

"They gave of their time and they were deeply involved," said Carl.

"I just love Dundas. It's already a great place. I just want to make it even better."

According to his nominators, Carl cares deeply for his community, and everything he undertakes is with faith, passion, enthusiasm, humour and conviction.

No cause is too big or small.

In fact, in the winter Carl has been known to use his snow blower to clear the driveways of his neighbours.