

# Port Credit couple rewarded for world citizenship efforts

By CHRIS CLAY  
Staff

A longtime Port Credit couple was honoured Friday with an award that recognizes the principles of global citizenship.

Dr. Douglas Alton and Janis Alton were presented with the Registry of World Citizens in Canada's World Citizenship in Action Award during a ceremony beside the Peace Stone at Richard's Memorial Park. The presentation coincided with International Day of Peace, marked annually on Sept. 21.

The award, now in its second year, is handed out as a tribute to the core principles of global citizenship - love and devotion to family, dedication to city and those who live in it, a passionate faith in country and its people, and an unwavering belief that people can and must address injustice wherever it occurs on the planet.

Last year, the award was presented posthumously to former NDP leader Jack Layton.

"I'm deeply touched that we're following in the footsteps of Jack Layton, and those are some pretty big footsteps," said Janis. "I'm very honoured and very happy (with the award)."

The serene park seemed a perfect setting for a ceremony devoted to peace.

Douglas is a former board mem-

ber of the Physicians for Global Survival, the Canadian affiliate of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Janis has been a member of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace for several decades, having served as co-chair and on the board of directors.

"It's really nice to be with like-minded people committed to peace and against war," said Douglas.

"I'm assuming we're like-minded and no one here is supporting nuclear war," quipped Douglas to chuckles from the audience.

Dorothea Sheasby, registrar of the Canadian chapter of the Registry of World Citizens and who organized the presentation with her daughter Charlotte Sheasby-Coleman, called the couple deserving of the award.

"They've been travelling all over the world promoting peace and this (honour) is (well-deserved)," she said.

Far from a sombre ceremony, there was music and song throughout the morning. Songs, such as John Mayer's *Waiting on the World to Change* and *Imagine* by John Lennon, delivered messages of equality and peace.

The Peace Stone, erected in 2009 steps from the shore of Lake Ontario, is a five-foot sculpted marble oval with a message that reads: Planet Earth is our Home, Humanity is our Family.

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Dr. Douglas Alton and Janis Alton receive the World Citizenship in Action Award from Dorothea Sheasby (right), registrar of the Registry of the World Citizens in Canada, on Friday at Richard's Memorial Park.

Staff photo by Chris Clay

Paul Brig ALTON, Janis