

Peel Bury - DuMOUCHEL, Maureen

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Sunny disposition earns bus driver Transit's top honor



Maureen DuMouchel used to bounce cheques. Now she makes sure Mississauga Transit drivers have the smoothest ride possible.

DuMouchel, a native of Québec, was recently honored as transit's 1993 operator of the year.

In an interview, the winner said she just loves her job because people are always happy to see her coming. That's not how it used to be when she worked at a bank and spent her time returning people's NSF cheques.

In making the award, Director of Operations Bill Cunningham said of DuMouchel that "whenever I see her

she has a smile on her face and that's what makes everyone's day — especially our customers' — a little brighter."

DuMouchel attributes her friendly outlook to advice her grandmother gave her when she was little more than a toddler: "Treat people the way you'd like to be treated."

After driving a school bus for a year-and-a-half, DuMouchel decided to apply to the City and hasn't regretted a moment. "I love my job" she says, noting that Mississauga Transit has been a wonderful place to work. "They don't treat you as a

number. They all know you by your first name."

The customers are pretty accommodating too, says the driver. It will be six years on the job in September and DuMouchel has only had one real problem. One day when she was running slightly behind schedule, a man got on the bus and "tore a real strip off me." DuMouchel stopped him in his tracks by saying "you sound just like my ex-husband."

The next day the same man got on the bus and told DuMouchel

that his wife had ordered him to apologize to her.

The Operator of the Year is the proud mother of sons Daniel, 15 and André, 13. Her award will provide another bookend at home. Her "better half," Mike Driscoll, also a transit driver, won the same award a few years ago.

In order to be eligible, drivers must have an accident-free record and top attendance. They are nominated by fellow operators. The winner is chosen by a committee of management.

Staff photo by Fred Loek

Maureen DuMouchel is Mississauga Transit's operator of the year. The six-year veteran bus driver was recognized for her cheery attitude towards her riders.