

A septuagenarian dynamo

Reel Bioy-BK
Jan. 14-87 MN

Elsie's this year's top senior

By STEVE WARBURTON
Staff Reporter

"Utterly reliable."

"She always has the seniors' welfare at heart."

"What more can I say?"

That's how Joan Pollard describes her friend Elsie Edwards, Mississauga's Senior Citizen of the Year for 1986.

That's also the way many others familiar with the Park Royal Seniors Centre describe the septuagenarian dynamo who topped 11 other worthy challengers to capture the annual honor.

For over a decade, Edwards has been a key member of the Park Royal Seniors Advisory Council, an active participant in the Lorne Park Seniors Club, a member of the Clarkson

Friendship Centre and a regular patron of the St. Brides Church along with a handful of other volunteer activities that hardly give her time to stop.

But despite her hectic schedule, which she treats matter-of-factly, Edwards says she was overwhelmed by the award.

"There are far more people more deserving than me for this award," says Edwards.

"But I'm honored to have received it."

And well she should be. It's only recently that the 75-year-old Edwards is being forced to take more time than usual to reflect on her most recent achievement.

Felled by illness, she's had to stop calling bingo at the Park Royal Cen-

tre every Tuesday morning and has given up her position as travel convener for the Lorne Park group, but despite the imposed rest she still loves to talk about her activities and her friends.

"There have been times that my family thought I was doing too much but I always got great satisfaction out of volunteering.

"This award has partly come as a result of wanting to get out and keep myself busy," she says.

"When you become a widow you have to find an outlet."

It was in the early 1970s when Edwards lost her husband that she first volunteered at a hospital in Oakville but since then she has brought her talents east, particularly to the Park

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ELSIE EDWARDS

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Edwards, Elsie