

Rabbi Englander

Peel. Biog.

named top citizen

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By MARY-ELLEN
KAVANAGH

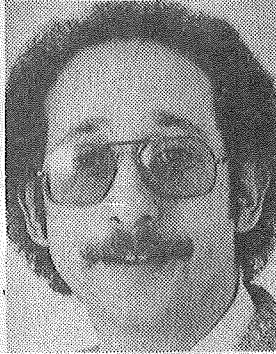
A man who combines total service to the community with a genial optimism and a lot of energy has been chosen as the Erin Mills Kinsmen Citizen of the year. Rabbi Larry Englander, of Solel Congregation, will be presented with the award at a special dinner next month.

The Erin Mills Kinsmen instituted the Citizen of the Year award this year, together with the Snowberry Festival, as a new project to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the service club.

Englander was chosen for his service to the community which covered a broad spectrum.

Although the major thrust of Englander's work is in the instruction and leadership of his congregation, he routinely works with other community organizations, including the Peel Board of Education and the Dufferin-Peel Separate School Board. His efforts spread out to the entire community last year on two occasions, with the founding of the Mississauga branch of Operation Lifeline and the crucial period of the November evacuation.

Englander has been involved in the Erin Mills community since 1973,



RABBI LARRY
ENGLANDER

when as a rabbinical student, he served the dozen families who had joined together to start the Mississauga synagogue. When he graduated in 1975 he became the full-time rabbi of the congregation which now comprises 150 families spanning a large area from Toronto to Burlington.

He has instituted a religious school at Solel and an active adult education centre. He is in great demand as a guest speaker on topics related to Judaism and community relations by churches, schools and service clubs.

Born and raised in post-war Toronto, Englander followed graduation at Sir Sandford Fleming Collegiate by taking an Honors B.A. in Philosophy at York University. Coming from a religious family, he had made the decision to become a rabbi in high school. He attended rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College, studying one year in Jerusalem and four years in Cincinnati.

In 1973, he married Cheryl Bardikoff, a child care worker with Community Youth programs

in Oakville, who shares his enthusiasm for religious teaching and community involvement.

"My involvement in the community springs from my belief that the role of the Jewish community is firstly to be a good citizen, and secondly to act as a watchdog to the larger community, using Jewish values as a barometer and guide to what community values should be," says Englander. "If you see some things that should be changed, well, you can't be an influence for change without being involved."

The energetic rabbi has a list of changes that he would like to see in Mississauga. Two situations which he sees as time bombs unless concerted efforts are made to deal with them, are the lack of a variety of constructive programs for young people and inter-racial problems.

Englander would like to see a larger proportion of the people of the community involved with their community, according to their interests.

"I am honored to receive the Kinsmen award, but I would like people to know that any individual who cares can accomplish something which will make our community a better place," says Englander. "As a clergyman, with the encouragement of my congregation, I have been able to do things and achieve a high profile, but many other people are just as deserving, and in a young community with so much to be done, there is room for many more."