

Peel Bcoy Bk.

MAR 1978

Ruth Kitchen

Ruth Kitchen looks back

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# Citizen of the Year stays 'tickled pink'

By JO ANN SMITH-GIBSON  
Staff Reporter

Ruth Kitchen remembers vividly the phone call with the news she had been selected last year's Citizen of the Year.

"I happened to be home at the time — which is unusual — and I was tickled pink," remembers Kitchen. "I had read about the award, but had never thought of myself. When I got off the phone I said 'Whoopie!'"

Kitchen says she was honored to be singled out for her years of volunteer work with Interim Place, the Erindale College scholarship campaign committee and the United Way.

But she hastens to add that while the recognition was nice, it's certainly not why she became involved in volunteerism.

"You don't work for that sort of thing — but it's wonderful when you're recognized," said the Lorne Park mother of two. "It gives you a bit of motivation to keep going."

Kitchen says she looks at the award as one she shares with all the volunteers of Mississauga who give up their time for worthy causes.

Kitchen got her start in volunteerism with the Junior League in Toronto.

After moving to Mississauga in 1970 she became involved with the United Way, moving through different positions including president. While, past president of Peel's United Way, Kitchen served on the board of directors for United Way of Canada for a two-year term.



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One of Kitchen's more exciting exploits was her work with the *Fare for Friends* cookbook fundraising project for Interim Place. The 22 authors originally decided to try a cookbook because "we all liked to cook and eat." But the project has gone far beyond that.

Today, the best-seller has sold more than 25,000 copies, with another 10,000 just having been printed.

Kitchen feels an award like the Citizen of the Year is important in that it can let the public in on the rewards of being a volunteer.

"The award should give the general public a chance to hear about how rewarding being a volunteer is," said Kitchen.

If Kitchen has any regrets about her term spent as Citizen of the Year, it's that she wasn't given enough opportunity to promote the cause of volunteerism.

"I think groups could use the award-winner a little better," said Kitchen. "It's important things don't fall flat after the big event."

Nominations are now open for this year's recipient. To nominate a Citizen of the Year, pick up a nomination form at *The Mississauga News*, 3145 Wolfedale Rd., and along with your name and address, include in fewer than 500 words the reasons for your nomination.

Nominees should be people who have voluntarily given their time for the betterment of the community.

The winner of the award will be honored at a special luncheon on May 4 at the Novotel Hotel.

Get your nominations in before March 31 at 5 p.m.