

Super senior John Roberts earns Rotary honor

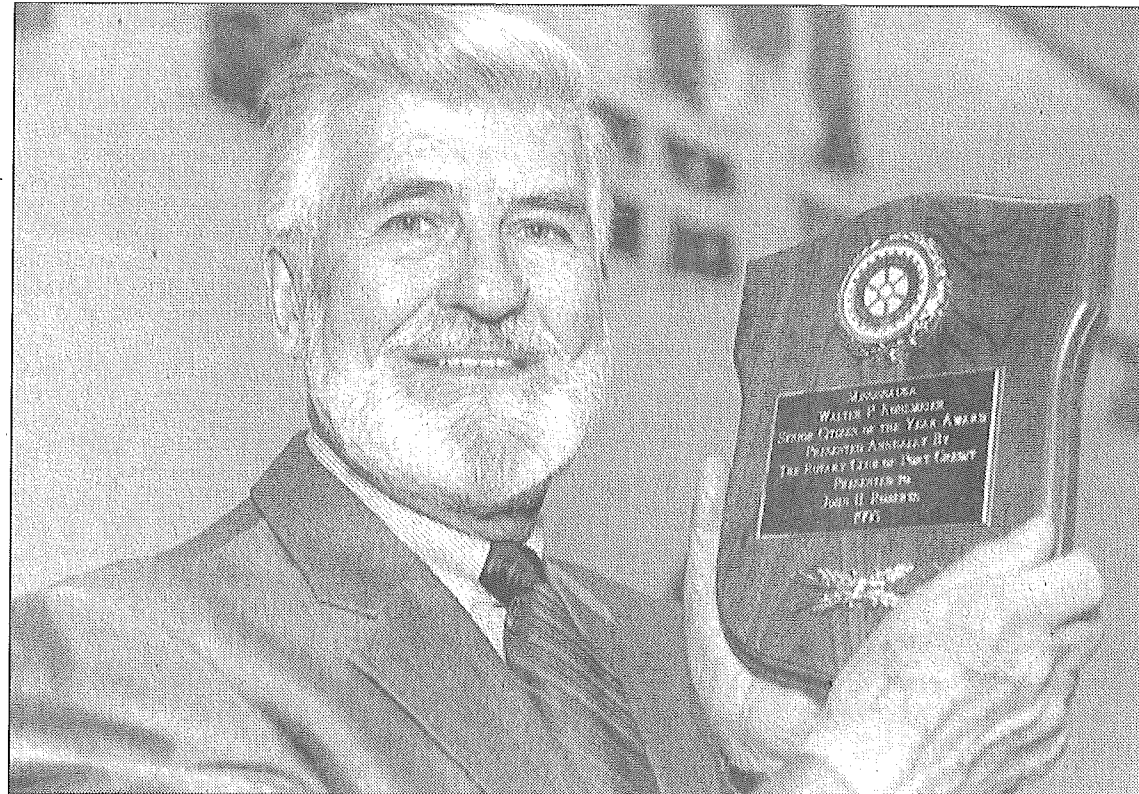


Photo by Peter Thompson

Tireless volunteer John Roberts carted home some hardware recently after being honored as the Port Credit Rotary Club's Senior Citizen Of The Year. Roberts has over 40 years of volunteering behind him, including his present term as president of the Mississauga Humane Society.

Dedicated volunteer says it's his 'joy'

By MARK HOLMES
Staff

With a volunteering schedule that reads like a phone book, it's little wonder why John H. Roberts has been named Senior Citizen Of The Year by the Port Credit Rotary Club.

While most senior citizens look forward to slowing down at retirement, Roberts has done exactly the opposite, noted Rotarians who presented the award in a special ceremony at the Cawthra Seniors' Centre Dec. 16.

He's almost apologetic when he said he didn't volunteer much until the last 20 years. The truth of the matter is, old habits — even good ones — die hard. Since returning from duty overseas as a Flight Lieutenant in the Second World War, he has been balancing volunteer work with family and job.

A life-long resident of Port Credit, Roberts, 73, is a long time member of the Shriners and a founding member of the Mississauga Real Estate Board that will soon celebrate its 40th anniversary.

And the list goes on.

Nominated by his peers, Robertson was chosen for the award that recognized efforts including:

- Playing organ and regularly working in the Seniors' Centre kitchen at Cawthra Rd.;

- Performing with the Playmates, a group of about 16 seniors who, free of charge or for a small donation, put on shows and hospitality for residents of rest homes, the Shriners and others;

- Holds the office of president of the Mississauga Humane Society that has diligently raised \$200,000 over five years for an animal shelter and a much needed food bank for the pets of needy families;

- Collects eye glasses for Third World countries.

In between all that he still finds time to work full-time as a real estate broker. He admits, however, he's mostly a desk jockey these days.

And he has his family with wife Margaret, son John and daughter Carol who have also vied for his attention. Both children are now grown and married, which leaves him more time to volunteer — something he called, "a joy," and, "very, very satisfying."

"I get a great deal of satisfaction out of it (volunteering) and I get the chance to work with great people, especially the seniors. They are the most energetic people I've ever met. There's not a lazy bones among them," he said.

About his award, Roberts said, "I'm honored and I can't say much more than that. There are a lot of people out there who deserve the award and I'm honored they picked me," he said.

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