



Some might stand in awe of CFRB radio personality Ray Sonin's collection of more than 12,000 records; but he and wife June, are equally in awe over Sonin's recent honor of being named a Most Excellent Member of the British Empire.

**CIRCULATION**  
**Ray Sonin**  
*Peel Biog. June 27-84 MN*  
**earns award**  
**MISSISSAUGA LIBRARY SYSTEM**  
**from Queen**

By JODIE LOMBARDI

Radio personality Ray Sonin was "so excited I couldn't believe it" at the news that he will become a Member of the British Empire.

Sonin was among those named in Queen Elizabeth's birthday honor list, one of the two annual occasions when Her Majesty distributes awards.

He was telephoned by the British Consul asking if he would accept the honor.

"Of course, I did," Sonin says without question. "Some people don't. I don't know why."

The 69-year-old Mississauga resident, who hosted the popular CFRB radio programs *Calling All Britons* and *Down Memory Lane* during 25 years at the station will become a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in recognition of his service to Britain.

"It's a great honor because I'm a Canadian citizen," says Sonin, who still retains his British accent after coming to Canada in 1957.

Under those circumstances, the consul general asked the Canadian government for permission to acknowledge Sonin's eligibility.

"The government gladly gave it," Sonin reports.

Not being "one of those people who gets awards," Sonin says the distinguished MBE was "such a shake-up I couldn't believe it."

Although he knew in May that he was selected, Sonin "couldn't let anybody know" until the news was publicly released simultaneously at 7:01 p.m. in Canada on June 15 and at 12:01 a.m. in Britain on June 16.

While Sonin's voice is familiar to radio listeners, his face is also familiar to the community in Mississauga. Over the past five years, he acted as one of the most popular hosts to the annual *Mississauga News* Christmas Bureau Fund "Over-the-top" telethon on Cable 10 TV.

It's a community involvement Sonin says he is looking forward to every year with great delight.