

Outstanding citizen recognized

By JULIA LE

Staff
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Dorothy Tomniuk loves living in Mississauga. That's what motivated her to become a grassroots activist nearly 10 years ago and it's

why she continues to devote her time and efforts to serving various community organizations.

"I tend to get involved in things because I get so passionate about them," she said. "I love this city. I really love living here and the

more people you meet the more you want to get involved."

For her tireless efforts in the community, Tomniuk has been named Mississauga's 32nd Citizen of the Year. She will receive the

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Gordon S. Shipp Memorial Award during a May 17 ceremony at City Hall. The event is organized jointly by *The Mississauga News* and the Mississauga Real Estate Board, in cooperation with the City of Mississauga.

Tomniuk is best known as the voice of MIRANET (Mississauga Residents' Associations' Network). She's also involved with the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee and TOPCA (Town of Port Credit Association).



The Port Credit resident is also active on the local political scene. She teamed with the University of Toronto Mississauga to organize the 2010 mayoral debate. Last August, she worked with *The Mississauga News* to produce and co-host a televised Ward 5 by-election debate that put 21 candidates for City Council in front of television cameras.

Meanwhile, in selecting Tomniuk, the panel of judges said she embodies the true spirit of a top citizen.

"She is a really grassroots kind of activist," said one judge. "I don't think she was looking for any fame or political ambition but she managed to rally an awful lot of people about issues that were incredibly important."

Always humble, Tomniuk says she's extremely grateful and honoured to be recognized — particularly to be included in the prestigious group of past recipients that includes poverty fighter Edna Toth, developer Ignat Kaneff, realtor Diane Kalenchuk, businessman Laurie Williamson, Dr. Colin Saldanha and the late Sam McCallion, the former publisher of *The Mississauga Boater*.

Tomniuk began her career as an activist when she joined the Friends of Olde Port Credit, which succeeded in getting Port Credit designated as a heritage district.

While with the group, Tomniuk helped produce a report entitled Port Credit: An Urban Village for the 21st Century, a Model Community for the World. The 80-page study was used extensively by City planning staff and consultants in developing Port Credit's strategic plan.

Meanwhile, over the last few years, Tomniuk has helped organize opposition to three power plants that were slated to be built in Mississauga or on the city's borders. All three projects have since been shut down.

According to Barbara Murck, who nominated Tomniuk for the award, the honoree never seeks recognition.

"She's the catalyst. She gets things started ... things that empower people, engage people and activate people," she said. "Then she quietly works from behind the scenes to keep them going."